

NEW GRYNSEY. 1 Shipman Head. 2 Part of Brehar. 3 Hanthe Battery.



*Observations on the ancient and  
present state of the islands of ...*

William Borlase

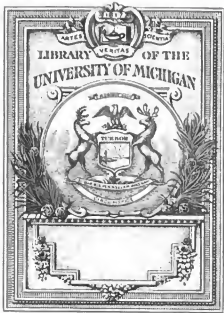
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# OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

Ancient and Present State

OF THE

ISLANDS OF SCILLY.





OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
Ancient and Present State  
OF THE  
ISLANDS OF SCILLY,

And their Importance to the  
TRADE of *GREAT-BRITAIN*.

In a LETTER to the Reverend  
CHARLES LYTTELTON, LL.D.  
Dean of EXETER, and F. R. S.

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By WILLIAM BORLASE, M. A. F. R. S.

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O X F O R D :

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M.D.CC.LVI.

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The Islands of Scilly lie in  
Lat.  $49^{\circ} 47'$  according to Boushamp  
but to D. Halley in  $49^{\circ} 55'$

SCILLY



Stance.



Line. 11 St. Mary's head 12 White Isl. 13 Eastern Isles.

ARKY'S SCILLY.



th. half West one League  
on. pre. 8 Senan Church. 9 St. Bernan Church. 10 Castle Traloe



REVEREND SIR!

**I**F I fall short of any one of my obligations to you, don't let it be imputed to my negligence, but to the number of those obligations, and the difficulty of levelling accounts where there is so much due: among the rest, since you are not contented with the short sketch I have already given you of the **SCILLY ISLES**, I acknowledge my promise to give you a particular account of my little voyage to them, and instead of apologizing for not doing it sooner, I proceed to acquit myself of that engagement as well as I can.

It is reckon'd only six or eight hours passage (with a fair wind) from St. **MICHAEL'S MOUNT** to

\* Account of the alterations which the Islands of Scilly have undergone, as to their number, ex-

tent, and position. *Philos. Trans.* Vol. XLVIII. Part 1. for the year 1753, pag. 55.

**B**

**SCILLY,**

## 2 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

SCILLY, but we made it a great deal more. Putting off from the MOUNT in the Godolphin Sloop about seven in the morning, <sup>b</sup> in about ten hours we got a-breaft of the *Gulph* midway from *Penzance* to the Islands, keeping at a proper distance from this large and dangerous rock; some call it the *Wolf*, either from its devouring so many vessels as split upon it, or more likely from the howling which the waves make continually round it. In all countries sailors claim a right of naming the Rocks and Shoals they meet with, and generally exercise that right with some reason and propriety: Mr. *Addison*, in his *Travels*, <sup>c</sup> observes that the *Circean Promontory* in *Italy* being “very  
“ rocky and much exposed to the winds and  
“ waves, gave the first rise perhaps to the howlings of *Wolves* and roarings of *Lions* that used  
“ to be heard thence.” <sup>d</sup>

The weather was at this time very moderate, the evening pleasant and open, and several large

<sup>b</sup> May 25, 1752.

<sup>c</sup> Page 284.

<sup>d</sup> Hinc exaudiri gemitus, iræque leonum  
Vincla recufantum, et ferâ sub nocte rudentum  
Setigerique fues, atque in præsepibus urfi  
Sævire, ac formæ magnorum ululare *Luporum*.  
*Æn.* vii. 15.



fish call'd *Thornbacks* (from their sharp and broad fins on the back) diverted us here with their sea-dance, throwing themselves, as they pursued their prey the *Mackrel*, in a circular bound like the *Dolphin*. This fish is from twelve to fifteen feet long; what we saw were very near us, of several colours, some brown, some milk white, and others differently spotted with those two colours. About nine of the clock in the evening we drew near the Islands, but a very thick fog ensuing, the sailors began to be apprehensive whether they should fall in with the proper passage into St. MARY'S Island, or not: sometimes they thought they could see the land, but were always uncertain what part of the Islands it was. This determined us to continue turning off and on, (in sea affairs, give me leave to use sea expressions) and wait for the morning. During this interval, the gentleman (who was so good as to bear me company) and myself had a very uneasy time of it, and nothing to do but to expect the day-light, which you may be assured was with great impatience. The day came, but the fog continued so thick that we had no benefit from it.

#### 4 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

About five of the clock we happened to be in the middle of the rocks which they call the Eastern Islands. \* and made short trips to and fro, for fear of being entangled too much in those narrow guts; but about six, the fog rising a little from the back of the sea discovered the welcome land, from which we were not a stone's throw, to be the Eastern back of St. MARY's Island. \* We were by this time such true sailors, that we immediately lost sight of the danger we had escaped, delighted as we were with the thoughts of being soon in port, and the uncommon appearances of Land (if what is mostly rocks may be called so) on each side of us, as we passed. It was *Crow-sound*, and, I must own, the sight of it gave me much pleasure, which you will, and justly may in some measure, attribute to our sudden transition from a state of uncertainty to that of safety, but not wholly; for these Islets and Rocks edge this *Sound* in an extremely pretty, and very different manner from any thing I had seen before. The sides of these little Islands continue their greenness to the brim of the water, where they are either surrounded by rocks of different shapes, which

\* Plate I.  
Fig. iii.  
N<sup>o</sup> 13.

\* Plate I.  
Fig. iii.

\* Passages into harbours are called Sounds.

OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY. 5

which start up here and there as you advance, like so many enchanted castles, or by a verge of sand of the brightest colour. The sea, having eaten away passages between these hillocks, forms several pretty pools and lakes, and the crags which kept their stations, look so broken, intercepted; and so numerous, that the whole seemed but one large grotesque piece of rock-work.

I don't know whether I should observe to you, that in the depth of the channel, as we came along, we found the Tide of Flood to keep a regular East North-east, and the Ebb, West South-west direction; but it was not so when we were within two leagues or less of either shore, for there the tide runs with many turnings and windings round the headlands, and is delay'd or accelerated according as the natural tendency of the Water (waiting upon its great mistress the Moon) is oppos'd or comply'd with by the shape of the shores.

SAINT  
MARY'S.

The largest Island, and most cultivated, containing more inhabitants, and of much more value

## 6 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

luc to the Lord Proprietor than all the rest, is called St. MARY's. About half a century ago, it was reckoned to contain two thirds of the inhabitants residing upon these Islands, but the families of the Off-Islands are much encreased since that time. It contains at present six hundred inhabitants. Its Rents amount to about three hundred pounds per annum. It is three miles long and two wide.

\* Pl. II. *Old-Town*\* lies in the Eastern corner of a small  
Fig. i.  
N<sup>o</sup> 6. *Cove*, ' or *Creek*, fronting the South, and was formerly the principal place of dwelling in all this Island, but the houses are now poor cots with rope-thatch coverings. Behind them stands an eminence, call'd the *Old-Town-Castle*, and part of the walls still remains. Leland \* calls it a moderately strong pile, but 'tis now dismantled. Here are several fishing-boats kept in a poor little Pier, but the Pool is round, and the rocks and loose stones which now incumber it, might easily be removed, and make a jetty-head on each side

\* The Cornish call a Place where Boats and small Craft may get out and in a *Cove*.  
\* Itin. Vol. III. pag. 8.

the

the entrance, which would be of great use to the pilots in strong Easterly winds, when they cannot so easily get out to ships from the other parts of this Island.

From *Old-Town*, we pass over a green ridge edged with sand, within which on the right hand lies a low marshy piece of ground reaching from the South to the North sea, about half a mile in length, and as much in breadth. It is of great importance to this Island to keep the sea from over-running this valley, but in the great storm, A. D. 1744, it was laid under water, and the principal drain being necessarily made through miry ground, and sand banks, and nothing but continual attention and frequent repairs able to keep it open, this moist piece of ground, though capable of making fine meadows, recovers its verdure and fences but very slowly.

At the Western end of this *Cove* stands the Chaplain's house, lately rebuilt entirely by the present Lord *Godolphin*, but placed somewhat too near the sea, which is oftentimes a very troublesome

## 8 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

some neighbour. The Church is juſt by, built in the form of a croſs, but not ſo old as the Reformation. The Soldiers of the Garriſon have a gallery allotted them in this Church facing the Commanding Officer, who has a handſome ſeat below in the Chancel. In this gallery are ſet aſide the diſjointed parts of a Monument to the memory of *Francys* wife of *Joſeph Hunkin* of *Gatherly* in *Lyſton* pariſh, *Devon*, Governor of *SCILLY* in the year 1657, and daughter of *Robert Loyes*, of *Beardon*, in *Boyton* Pariſh, *Cornwall*, Eſq; there are two Coats-armour, one for each family. Firſt *Or*, a *Chevron Gul.* between three *Sea-pies* (or ſome other birds which I could not recollect) *Sab.* Second *Arg.* a *Feſs* between two *Chevronels* (the under-one inverted) *Sab.* I was deſired to enquire after the families in order to have this Monument re-erected, but I find them both extinct, and the lands paſſed into other names. The Church is decent, has no tower, but two cover'd niches riſing on the Weſtern end for two bells. Divine ſervice is here performed, once on Holidays, and twice on Sundays. The Chaplain keeps a Re-giſter of Births, Marriages and Burials. Hither they

they bring their children to be baptis'd, and come here to be married, but the dead are buried where they fall, and by Laymen in the Off-islands, each of which has its *Clerk* who reads prayers and sermons to the inhabitants on *Sunday* in their little Church.

Before this *Cove* of *Old Town* stands a small green Island on the sharp top of which shoots up a crag of flat stones plac'd close side by side, from which it is call'd *Karn-léb*; i. e. a groupe of flat rocks, in the *Cornish* language: the hill is taper, has a pretty effect in prospect, and throws shelter into the *Cove*. I have observ'd several other *Karns* in these Islands, whose top-rocks look like so many rude thin pillars, projecting in the same friendly manner.

How far such remarkable *Karns* may have contributed to give name to these Islands we will enquire by and by.

The *Cove* at *Old Town* being little, rocky, and expos'd to the Southern seas, the inhabitants were

C

prompted

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prompted to begin a new Town about a mile dif-

\* Pl. III. tant: \* they were determin'd in their choice of  
N<sup>o</sup> 29. this situation above all other parts of this Island

\* Ib. N<sup>o</sup> 33. by the conveniency of a large sandy *Pool*, \* and  
the neighbourhood of a *Peninsula* form'd by nature  
for Fortification. The *Pool* will hold commodiously a hundred sail of ships, has a soft oozy  
bed, and good anchorage, communicates easily

\* Pl. III. with the *Road* between St. MARY'S and SAMSON, \*  
N<sup>o</sup> 20. where the largest ships chuse to lie, and has an easy  
*Outlet* through all the four *Sounds*. On the summit of this *Peninsula*, which they call here the  
\* *Hue*, *Heugh*, or *Hew*, (signifying a high piece of  
land running off into the water) is a small *Fort*

\* Pl. III. call'd *Star-Castle* \* from the shape of its plan, pro-  
N<sup>o</sup> 1. jecting like the rays of a star \*. It was built by  
\* Pl. IV. Fig. i. Sir *Francis Godolphin*, Governor, in the time of  
Queen *Elizabeth*, and over the Portal is E R

\* Pl. IV. (*Elizabetha Regina*) 1593. Upon the Rampart \*  
Fig. i. is erected the Standard; on the Saliant Angles  
N<sup>o</sup> 3.

\* Ib. N<sup>o</sup> 4. are four little square rooms \*, in each of which

<sup>a</sup> There are several places call'd  
by this Name, which run forth into  
the Tamar river in Cornwall, (as—  
see Martin's large Map) and during  
the Pilchard and Herring Fishery,

the man who stands on the hills to  
discover the fish, and thence directs  
the fishing boats below, is called  
the Hewer.

a Captain



a Captain of the Garrison was designed to lodge, all to be constant guests at the Governor's table ;

•Ib. N<sup>o</sup> 5. there is a Foss \* betwixt this Rampart and the

•Ib. N<sup>o</sup> 6. Governor's house \*, which is square, roomly, and handsome. From this Castle down to the Barracks there is a wide Terras, on which five hundred men may easily draw up in order. The

•Pl. III. N<sup>o</sup> 4. Barracks \* are at the entrance into the *Lines*, which, being built all of *Moor-stone*, make a good appearance, and being flank'd with Bastions, and Saliant Angles at proper distances, were designed to go quite round this *Peninsula*, and are well nigh completed, the whole circuit near two miles. Contiguous to one of the Bastions stands the *Store-*

•Pl. III. N<sup>o</sup> 6. *house*, \* in which the arms and military stores are very orderly plac'd, and well kept. I shall not particularly point out to you some improprieties which occur'd to me in the disposition of these *Lines* : Doubtless they might have been better designed at first, but as it is the proper department of another profession to rectify mistakes in military architecture, I shall not hazard my little skill that way, to find fault with what perhaps it is too late to blame, and for me too difficult to

## 12 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

say how it might be amended. 'Tis to be hop'd the Government will take care that the Fortifications of SCILLY may be completed upon the best plan that the works are now capable of, and, that what is completed may be kept in proper repair.

Just below the *Lines* are the remains of an old  
 \* Pl. III. Fort: \* It is a round hillock and seems to have  
 N<sup>o</sup> 10. had a *Keep* on the top of it, in the same manner as *Trematon* and *Launceston* Castles in *Corrwall*, but smaller; the walls of it have been stripp'd to build the *Lines*; 'tis call'd *Mount-Holles*.

The little town below these *Lines* is call'd  
 \* Ibid. *Heugh-Town* \*, from the *Peninsula* on which it  
 N<sup>o</sup> 29. stands<sup>1</sup>. It is the most populous place of these

<sup>1</sup> A high Ridge or Tongue of land, running out into the water is upon the shores of the Tamar near Saltash call'd Hue, otherwise Heugh. Hence, in Beer Ferrers, we have Heugh-passage.—In Lamerton parish we have Lamerton-Heugh.—In Dunterton parish, Dunterton-Heugh—and among the fishermen, he who looks out from the high ground into the sea to discover fish, is said to Heugh, and is call'd a Heugher. Whether such ridges of land have

the name from the use they are generally applied to in looking out for fish, and the use, its name from *Huer* or *Huye* (in French signifying to shout, and make a noise) or from *Hue*, colour and shew, I must leave to Etymologists to determine; certain it is that such high lands as this in Scilly, are call'd in Scotland Heughs. See Lye's Junius in voce Hue.—Minshew's Duct. in Linguas ibid. Spelm. Glossar. in voce Hutehum. p. 306.

Islands :

Islands : here is the Custom-house, and the principal Inhabitants and Tradesmen live here. It has been much improv'd of late in building, and is much better supplied with provisions than it was formerly, owing chiefly to the industry of Mr. *Thomas Smith* agent to the Lord Proprietor, who by cultivating his lands, and breeding and feeding of cattle, has made every thing that a good farm can afford much more easily to be got at, than it was before his time. About twenty years since, the inhabitants generally liv'd on salt victuals which they had from *England*, or *Ireland*, and if they kill'd a bullock here, it was so seldom, that in one of the best houses in the Island, they have kept part of a bullock kill'd in *September* to roast for their *Christmas* feast. Perhaps you may be curious to know how this beef was kept for so long a time as three months, fresh enough to roast; the way was this, they buried it in salt till the day they chose to use it, and then it was taken out of the salt untainted, as two Gentlemen who eat part of it assured me, and roasted out of compliment to *Christmas* day.

At

14 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

At the Western end of this town there is a  
\* Pl. III. fine pier \*, built by the present Lord *Godolphin*  
N<sup>o</sup> 8. at the expence of eleven hundred pounds. It  
was begun in 1749, and finish'd in 1750; 'tis  
four hundred and thirty feet long, twenty feet wide  
in the narrowest part, twenty three feet wide at the  
pier-head, as many high from the foundation, and  
has there sixteen feet depth of water at a *Spring-*  
*tide*, and ten at a *Neap*. In the shelter of this  
pier, vessels of one hundred and fifty ton burthen  
may lie securely, and not only close to the *Quay*,  
but along the *Strand* of the town.

On this Island of St. MARY's, I counted fifteen  
distinct tenements, which have cultivated lands  
round the house, and coarse, but divided,  
grounds on the outskirts: That of *Holy-vale*,  
is the most pleasantly situated; it lies warm,  
well expos'd towards a little Southern *Cove* call'd  
*Portbelik*, and so well shelter'd from the North  
that trees grow very well, of which a few tall  
ones now standing are a sufficient proof, and I am  
persuaded that every kind of fruit tree common  
in *England* might be propagated here with great  
success:

success: the house was formerly large and commodious, but was unhappily burnt down the spring before I saw it: the lands and gardens are much out of order at present, but seem all to have had better times, the Governors of the Garrison retiring hither formerly from *Star-castle*, as to their country seat. From the name I should judge that the Monks belonging to the Abby in the Island of TRESCAW had a house and chapel here, but this is only my conjecture.

*Trenowith* joins to *Holy-vale*, stands on some of the highest ground in the Island, is a good farm, and house, and the water extremely soft and good.

*Newfort* is a farm of Mr. *Smith's*, on which he has made considerable improvements. There is nothing remarkable in the other farms but what will be taken notice of in the ensuing fortment of the curiosities of this Island.

Besides the Fortifications at *Old Town*, and the *Hue*, there was a *Fort* begun injudiciously on a hill

hill above the *Pool*, but the mistake in the choice of ground being discovered, it was never finished. It is called *Harry's Wall*, would command the *Pool* before *Hue-town* tolerably, but lying too far within the head-lands, and neither commanding *St. Mary's Sound*, nor *Crow-Sound*, nor being able to reach *Broad-Sound* to any effect, it was an idle project to place a fortification here: there is a *Curtain* still remaining with a *Bastion* at each end, and the *Bastions* are hollow, not solid; within the Northernmost *Bastion* there are some little cross walls, which intersect and form several cells designed either for *Mines* or for the uses of the Garrison; 'tis reckon'd of the time of *Henry* the VIII. and by the sharp angles of the *Bastions* cannot be older. All the shores of this Island, where any landing-place might admit the enemy, shew the ruins of *Block-houses*, *Batteries*, and *Lines*, or *Breast-works* reaching from one *Battery* to another: these are modern, and seem mostly of the time of the great Rebellion; but what they call here the *Giant's Castle* is certainly prior to the *Norman Conquest*.

This

This *Castle* is situated on a promontory, which towards the sea is an immense crag of rocks, as if heaped on each other: this heap, or turret of rocks declines also quick, but not so rough towards the land, and then spreads to join the downs, where at the foot of this knoll it has first a ditch crossing the neck of land from sea to sea; then a low *Vallum* of the same direction; next, a second ditch and a higher *Vallum*; lastly, near the top of this crag, it had a wall of stone encompassing every part, but where the natural rocks were a sufficient security; this wall by the ruins appears to have been very high and thick. It is call'd, as I said but now, the *Giant's Castle*, the common people in these islands, as well as elsewhere, attributing all extraordinary works to giants. We have many of these *Castles* on the *Cornish* cliffs; they seem designed by pirates and invaders to protect themselves whilst they were landing their forces, ammunition and implements of war, and to secure a safe retreat towards their ships in case of need. I am apt therefore to think that such *Cliff-Castles* are as

D

ancient

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ancient as the times of the *Danish*, if not of the *Saxon*, invasions.

From this hill we were pleas'd to see our own country, *Cornwall*, in a shape new to us, but what certainly induc'd the Ancients to reckon it among the Isles, generally call'd by them the *Cassiterides*; for as an Island it indeed appears to every eye from *Scilly*, as you see by the sketch taken from this *Castle*, Plate I. Fig. IV.

Of *Religious Monuments* of the Monkish times there is not one in this Island, but of the *Druids* there are many.

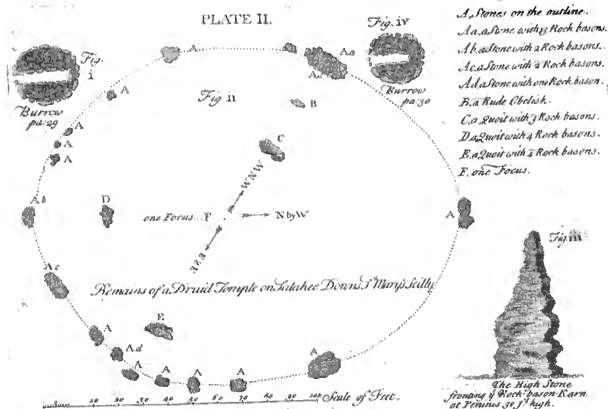
Circles of Stones-erect, supposed with great probability to have been places of *Druid* worship, I saw several; they have their detach'd pillars at a small, but undetermin'd distance, as is usual in our *Cornish Circles*. The first I met with was eighteen feet diameter; the second fifteen, of eleven stones; the third twenty six feet and a half of sixteen stones, with two detach'd pillars forty three feet and a half distant; to the Eastward



# OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY. 19

ward of which there is another small circle hard by. As these *Monuments* are all of the same construction, I shall not detain you with dry measurements, but as I am come now to one much grander than the rest, I beg leave to give you the dimensions and particularities of it.

PLATE II.



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On a Karn adjoining to the *Giant's Castle* we found the back of the rock cleared by art, (at least as it seem'd to us) of all unevenness, and making one plane of rock measuring one hundred and seventy two feet from North to South, and one hundred and thirty eight feet from East to West.\*

\* Plate II.  
Fig. ii.

Of this monument, though I have given some account in the *Antiquities of Cornwall*, yet, I shall not scruple to mention it again, as I am now enabled to send you the plan and a more circumstantial detail of the several parts of it. On the edges of the *area* are nine vast stones remaining, with some other of a smaller size, planted in a circular line; there is no uniformity in their shape, and at very unequal distances were they at first erected, as appears from that part of the circumference from which no stone has been taken away; from the other parts many stones have been remov'd in the memory of man, as a Gentleman in company, of his own knowledge informed us.

\* Pl. II.  
Fig. ii.

One stone \* on the edge of this temple (as I think we may safely call it) was seven feet ten inches high from the ground, the front of it inwards towards the centre was twenty feet long,  
it

it was forty three feet in girt, and had thirteen distinct and curious basons sunk into the top of it; a rude pillar \* fallen down lies about five paces from it; and in a line from these two rocks we meet with a flat Rock, or *Quoit* C, which has three *Rock-basons* on it's surface; the same line then cuts one of the *focus*'s of this *ellipsis*, F, and passing on at E has another *Quoit* with four *Basons* on it; D is a third *Quoit* with four *Basons* and is planted on the longest diameter of the *Temple* towards the *South*, and I doubt not had another *Quoit* in the Northern quarter corresponding to it; so that among all this rudeness something of design, you see, is to be discovered. The floor consisting only of one Rock must convince us that this *Circle* was intended for a place of Worship, for it could not serve for a *Sepulchre*; but why the *Quoits* were hollowed out into *Basons*, and plac'd in straight lines, we can only conjecture; however we may rest assur'd that those *Basons* (as they are plac'd in a *Religious Circle*) must have been in some sort or other subservient to the purposes of the *Druid Superstition*. The *Quoits* abovementioned are much broke,

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broke, and indeed this considerable work has greatly suffered in most parts, but when it was entire, you will agree that there must have been something wonderfully grand in this large *Circle*, the floor of which is one flat Rock, and the stones round the edges of so extraordinary a Size.

On this Island, as well as on every other, I found a great number of *Rock-basins*, by which it appears, that one and the same superstition with regard to these Monuments (for they are found generally in or near places of worship) obtain'd both here and in *Cornwall*, and had probably it's first rise in these Islands and the Continent adjoining, which is the reason that they are found in both *Scilly* and *Cornwall* in greater numbers than in any part of *Britain*. My opinion concerning the use of them you do not want to be informed of, I have always thought that they were designed to receive and preserve in their utmost purity the waters of the Heavens for holy uses; but in such doubtful cases let every man think for himself. I shall therefore only give you the description of one place, and the *Basins* which it contains.

At

OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY. 23

At *Peninis* a quarter of a mile below the new Windmill, after passing a very stony hill we came to the Knoll of the *Promontory* covered with a fair Turf, in several parts of which are large *Karns*, and between them a fine verdure and scarce a stone to be seen. There are many *Rock-basons* still here, tho' the stones have been much cloven and carried off for building. Their houses, hedges and fortifications being all of stone, and the limits being narrow in such small Islands, have obliged them to borrow much stone from their *Karns*, which I mention the rather because you may wonder, perhaps, that these which follow, and the other Monuments, are so maimed, and not one *Cromleb* (of which fort I doubt not there were many here formerly) to be found; but to return,

On one Rock we saw fifteen Basons, some the largest I have seen, and round withal. Two we measur'd; the first from it's highest part is six feet deep, but the other parts of it's brim are not so high; the sides, as they descend, are not perpendicular but concave, the shape of the  
*Bason*

#### 24 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

*Bafon* is oval, fix feet long and four wide; in-  
 fcrib'd within this oval the bottom is circular,  
 four feet diameter, hollow'd out as exactly as a  
 cup; it held formerly one foot ten inches of wa-  
 ter, but the thinner part of the brim being broke  
 off, it holds now only eight inches. There is  
 another *Bafon* contiguous to, and beneath the first,  
 and in shape more circular. It received the  
 water from the first, when it overflowed, is fix  
 feet fix inches diameter, four feet ten inches deep,  
 and one foot three inches in water, the fides  
 more concave than those of the other. There are  
 thirteen *Bafons* more of different fizes communi-  
 cating their moisture to those two great ones  
 wherever the shape of the rock would permit,  
 otherwise difcharging it over the fides another  
 way; both the great and small are sunk into  
 an immense rock, to which we were forced to  
 climb up in a manner neither very pleasant nor  
 safe. Though the spray of the sea so near them  
 on every hand might well be supposed to fill  
 these *Bafons* with salt water, yet I found the  
 water in them to be quite fresh. Let me add  
 that fronting this groupe at a little distance there  
 shoots

\* Pl. II. shoots up a prodigious rock,\* thin, pyramidal,  
Fig. iii. twelve feet at the base, and thirty feet high, not  
improbably an object of the Druid Devotion.

About half a mile North-east of the *Giants-Castle* stands a *Tolmén*, which name I give this Monument with the better authority, because near it I find a hill call'd *Tolmén*. In name therefore as well as shape and position it agrees with the great *Tolmén* of *Constantine* Parish in Cornwall; it is forty four feet in girt from top to bottom, and has one very regular round Basen, near the top, and no sign of any more. *Tolmén* signifies a holed stone, in Cornish; but this is not the true *Druid* name; the *Britans* called it so from the property of a hole or passage through the rocks underneath it, but the *Druids* call'd it probably by the name of one of their Deities, as soon as it was ritually consecrated, and most likely by that of *Saturn*<sup>a</sup>. On the next hill I saw a second *Tolmén*; 'tis still a vast stone, fifty two feet in girt, formerly more, but a large piece split off either by

<sup>a</sup> See Antiquities of Cornwall, pag. 164.

E lightning,

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lightning, or some natural defect in the stone, lies by it, and has a little *Bafon* on the top of it. Underneath, it has several stones, small in comparison of itself, plac'd there, as I imagine, to keep the sacred Rock free from the ground, it being a principle of the Druids, that things dedicated to pious use were defiled by touching the ground. Farther to the East on the same hill, another, but smaller *Monument* of the same kind shew'd us two or three artificial cavities work'd into the natural rock on which it stands.

I imagine these vast rocks to have been *Druid Deities*, and as I have given my reasons for that supposition at large in another place<sup>1</sup>, I need not detain you with them here.

Before I come to describe the ancient Sepulchres of these Islands, give me leave to make a small excursion from the *Druid* pale, and, now I am so near the spot, to carry you down to the grave of Sir *Cloudefly Shovel*.

<sup>1</sup> Antiq. of Cornwall, pag. 166.

In



In a *Cove* call'd *Portbelik* betwixt the *Tolmens* which I have been describing to you, the body of this great Sea Captain, after his ship-wreck in the year 1707 was found, naked, and not to be distinguished from the most ordinary sailor under his command; and here he was buried, a bank of sand offering itself very opportunely for that purpose. The nature of the place, it must be allowed, would make it doubly inhuman not to have buried him, (whoever he was) and is therefore the first argument *Archytas* makes use of to bespeak the same friendly office after a like misfortune.

*At tu, nauta, vagæ ne parce malignus arenæ*

*Offibus et capiti inbumato*

*Particulam dare.*-----

HOR. Ode 28. lib. i.

Stay Traveller, and let thy generous breast  
Guess the sad tale, and bear my bones to rest:  
See where, at hand, these sports of wind and wave  
May find the wish'd-for, though a sandy grave.

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His body was afterwards taken up and convey'd to *Westminster Abbey*, and a little pit on this sandy green still shews,

—*Pulveris exigui parva munera.* Ibidem.

The ancient *Sepulchres* in this Island are either *Caves*, or, as they are call'd by some authors, *Barrows* \*. Of *Caves*, the *Giants-Cave*, near *Tol's Hill* is the most remarkable; the description of this therefore may give you a just notion of the rest, but that they are neither so large, nor so entire. You see the mouth of it \*, it is four feet six inches wide, thirteen feet eight inches long, and three feet eight high; we that were living were forced to creep into it, but it may admit *Giants* when they are dead. It is covered from end to end with large flat stones, which shelter the sheep, and has a *tumulus* of rubbish on the top of all.

\* Pl. IV.  
Fig. vii.

\* But in Cornwall, much more properly, *Burrows*, from the Saxon Verb *Eyrigan*, whence the English, to *bury*.

*Barrow* signifies quite a different thing, viz. *A place of Defence*.  
Dugd. Warw. pag. 782.

The

The *Barrows*, here and in the adjacent Island, are very numerous, and constructed in one manner. The outer ring is composed of large stones pitch'd on end, and the heap within consists of smaller stones, clay, and earth mix'd together: they have generally a cavity of stone work in the middle cover'd with flat stones, but the *Barrows* are of various dimensions, and the cavities, which being low and covered with rubble, are scarce apparent in some, consists of such large materials in others, that they make the principal figure in the whole Monument.

We pitch'd upon a hill, where there are many of these *Barrows*, and, as the common story goes, *Giants* were buried, with a design to search them, and on *Wednesday, June* the third, having hired some soldiers, proceeded to open them.

• Pl. II.  
Fig. i.

In the first \* we found no bones, nor urns, but some strong unctuous earth which smelt cadaverous. In the middle of this *Barrow* was a large cavity full of earth: there was a passage into it at the eastern end one foot eight inches wide, betwixt

### 30 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

betwixt two stones set on end; the cavity was four feet eight inches wide in the middle, the length of it twenty two feet, it was walled on each side with masonry and mortar, the walls or sides four feet ten inches high; at the Western end it had a large flat stone on it's edge which terminated the cavity; it's length bore East and by North, and it was covered from end to end with large flat stones, several of which we removed, and others had been carried off before for building the new *Pier*.

Forty two feet distant to the North, we opened another *Barrow* \* of the same kind, the Cave was less in all respects, the length fourteen feet, bearing North-east by East, the walled sides two feet high; where narrowest, one foot eight inches, in the middle, four feet wide; in the floor was a small round cell dug deeper than the rest. In this we found some earths of different colours from the natural one, but nothing decisive. It was covered with flat stones like the former.

• Pl. II.  
Fig. iv.

In the afternoon it rained excessively hard, so  
that

that we could not proceed in our enquiries; the wind blew, and about midnight it was the most violent storm whilst it lasted, I ever knew.

You that are curious will think very innocently of our searching these repositories of the dead for the satisfaction of the living, but will you not be surprized if I tell you that it appeared in a very different light to the poor people of *Scilly*? The story may make you smile, I cannot expect that it should give you pleasure. *Thursday* morning, *June* 4, as the wind was cold and sharp, and it was the day I had determined to take a view of the *Peninsula* and town below it, I concluded it best to borrow a room in some proper house over against the subject I was to *draw*. Accordingly I walked away from my lodgings near a mile to chuse my stand. Here I met a person who soon began to talk about the weather, and to complain of the bitterness of the last night's hurricane, that it had almost ruined him and many of his neighbours, that their *Potatoes* and *Corn* were blasted, their *Grass* burnt quite black, and their *Pease* (which in this island is generally very good) utterly destroyed. I little suspected

suspected what the man drove at (it being usual with those who have but little to say to talk of the weather) but believing him to be in distress, pitied and endeavoured to comfort him, then went my way into the house adjoining; where having *drawn* till I was tired, I walked out to refresh myself, by taking a little air, and chatting with the first person I should meet. I soon met with a house which I thought at first sight might be more proper for *drawing* what I intended than that which I had sat down in before: The mistress of the house, who was at the door, told me I should be very welcome to the best room she had, and with the civility natural to these Islanders, invited me in, began to make all the haste imaginable to accommodate me by clearing the room of what stood in my way, and desired me to sit down. Upon my asking this courteous landlady some indifferent questions about her household furniture, and the way of living and paying their rents in this Island, she told me that a few days before, they were in hopes of a plentiful crop, paying their rent, and providing meat and cloaths for themselves and children, but that  
the

the last night's storm was very outrageous; then asked me whether we had not been digging up the Giant's graves the day before, and smiling with great good humour, as if she forgave our curiosity though she suffered for it, asked, whether I did not think that we had disturbed the Giants; and said that many good people of the Islands were of opinion, that the Giants were offended, and had really raised that storm. What the poor woman furnished, was become the common talk of the Island before sun-set, and as they come from the Off-islands to St. MARY's, or *vice versa* every day when the weather will let them pass, the same suspicion was every where; and on *Saturday* being at BREHAR Island, we were immediately asked how much money we had found in the Giants graves, and whether ever we heard a more violent storm, concluding that every thing they had in the ground was entirely ruined.

But let us hasten forwards to the other monuments. All I shall say of the *Burrows* is, that in our searches we discovered nothing but the structure of them, neither could I find, upon the

F strictest

### 34 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE

strictest enquiry, that ever any Urn was found in *Scilly*; and the reason why the cavities of Masonry are so much beyond the dimensions of the human body seems to me that they might contain more bodies than one. However it is not easy to convince these Islanders but that the graves were made according to the size of the body there interr'd.

Of the *Rude Stone Pillars* (which were sometimes Idols, sometimes Sepulchral Monuments, and at other times of various other uses among the ancients)\* there are two still standing in this Island; one on the summit of a round hill, on a little *Tumulus* near *Harry's Battery*, ten feet above the ground, by two feet nine inches wide; another, near *Bani's-Karn*, nine feet three inches high, by two feet six inches square at a medium.

On the point of a *Promontory* in *Normundy Tenement*, we observed many irregular furrows traversing the surface of a large rock, like so many little valleys, with ridges or partitions betwixt them: They are the work of art, but for what

\* See Corn. Ant. pag. 154.

designed



designed I can't say. Many such like *Sulcus's*, but mostly smaller than what are in this Rock, I have observed in the *Karns* of these Islands, and also in *Cornwall*<sup>b</sup>. Give me leave to ask you a question or two concerning them. Were these Rocks appropriated to the holy fires of the *Druids*, and channelled thus that the Priest might the better collect and preserve the sacred embers, of which, you know, the *Druids* made gain here in *Britain*, as the *Magi* anciently did, and their followers still do in *Persia*? This might not improbably be the design of these furrows on the Rock now before us, where they are about a foot wide ; but in other Rocks I have sometimes found them not more than two inches wide and deep, and when of such dimensions and in a wavy serpentine direction, I should think them designed as chanel for the blood of the victim to run into, for, to divine by such shocking meaners was one of the *Druid* abominations. But after all, every thing relating to these chanel is very doubtful, but that they are the works of art, (which to me appears most certain) and I would rather you should guess for yourself what should

<sup>b</sup> See Corn. Ant. pag. 131.

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be the intent of them than acquiesce in, or be troubled with any more of my conjectures. This is all I have to observe upon the Island of St. MARY's, and if I have been too long in the detail of my remarks here, the best amends I can make to you is to be very concise in what I shall say of the other Islands.

STAGNES As we made it one of our standing rules to pass over to the Off-islands whenever the weather permitted, the first fair day we took a boat for AGNES Island: In our passage the *Porpoises* diverted us with the same gambols, as the *Thornbacks* had done a day or two before. These fish are of the *Hog* size and shape, consequently not near so large in body or fins as the *Thornback*.

AGNES is three miles distant from St. MARY's, a well cultivated little Island, fruitful of *Corn* and *Grass*. It makes a pretty appearance from the *Fort* of St. MARY's\*, but they have no good water; the best is the rain water, which comes from the *Tower* (as they call the *Lighthouse* here) but being collected upon the lead floor of the *Gallery D*, \*  
from

• Plate I.  
Fig. 2.

• Pl. IV.  
Fig. ii.

from which and from the roof of the *Lantern* it brings down a great deal of filth into the *Cistern* H, it becomes very disagreeable. They might have good water here doubtless, if they would sink wells for it, but being used to bad water from their infancy, they are very indifferent about that which is otherwise.

They have very pretty *Coves* in this Island, particularly one to the Southward called, by way of eminence, *The Cove*, where the ground is so sandy, the water generally so clear and deep, and *Pilchards* in the summer time so plenty, that they may catch what they please; but this happy situation is of no advantage to them at present.

The greatest ornament of this Island is the *Light-house* \*, which, as you may never have seen one, give me leave to describe. It stands on the highest ground, and is indeed a fine Column. The building, from the foundation to the bottom of the *Lantern*, is of stone, fifty-one feet high, the *Gallery* D four; the *Sash-lights* eleven feet six inches high by three feet two inches wide; each pane of glass is one foot

\* Pl. IV.  
Fig. ii.

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foot nine inches and an half high by one foot five and an half wide of the best Crown-glass, the number of *Sashes* sixteen. The Column is divided into three *Stories*, marked by three *Lifts* or *Astragals* A, B, C; the *Stairs* up to A are of stone, but thence to B, and C, are of timber; on the floor of the *Lantern* is laid a platform of brick, upon which stands a substantial Iron Grate, square, barred on every side, in which the coal fire is lighted every night, and a Bellows (of the same size and make as a Smith's Bellows) so fixed as to blow the fire when it wants that assistance. The *Lantern* E, consisting wholly of timber-work and glass, is a spacious room; it has a coving canopy roof, in the middle of which there is one large *Chimney* F, which has many subordinate funnels round it, all piercing the roof, and contributing to discharge the smoke. To supply the fire they use a great deal of coals, which are drawn up through a trap door by means of a *Windlass*; what cinders the fire leaves are thrown into a gutter-hole just above I, and descending through a hollow passage made purposely in the *Buttress* K, are discharged at G. At D there is a *Gallery* quite round

round the *Lantern*, railed in ; this *Gallery* serves for air to the *Fire-men*, and to clean and repair the windows, and as is mentioned before, collects the rain water which descends through the *Lead-pipe* H into the *Cistern* L. The whole Stonework is plaistered white, which makes it as useful a mark by day for Ships coming from the Southward as the light of the fire does by night. This Island brings in to Lord *Godolphin* forty pounds a year rent ; there are about fifty families on St. AGNES. A little before *Leland*'s time, there were five families here, the greatest part of whom were drowned at one time coming from St. MARY's, and the Island defolated '.

\* Pl. IV.  
Fig. 8.

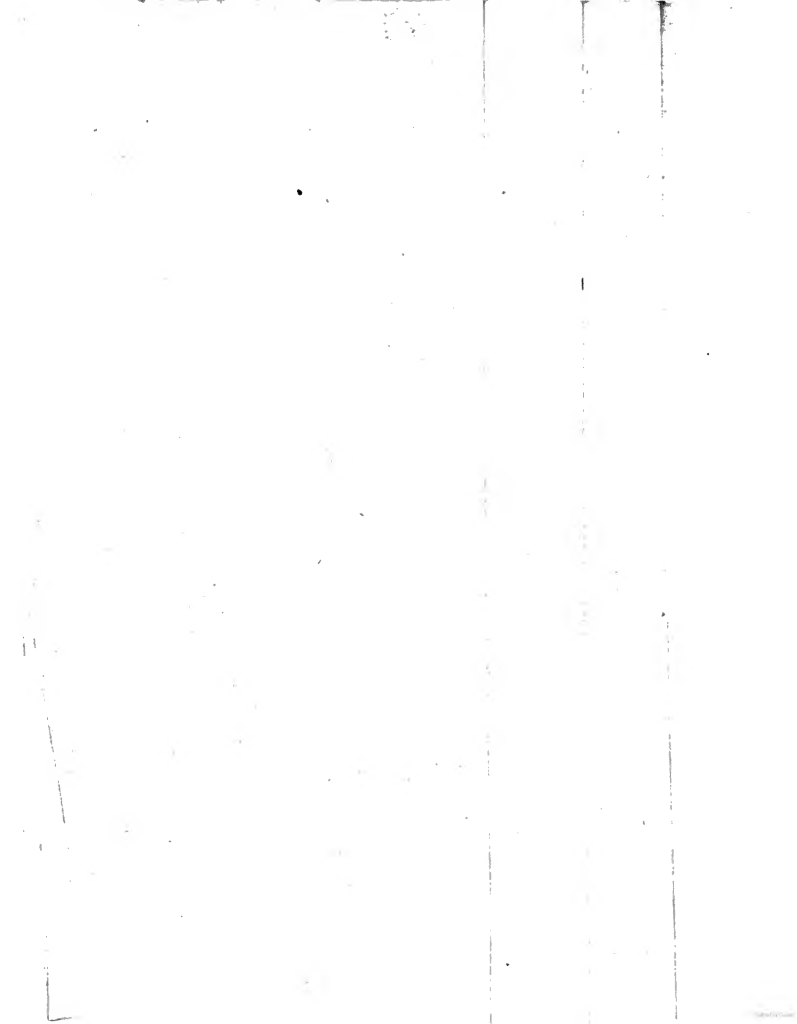
The Church is as you see\*, and all the Churches of the Off-islands are built in the same style, from twenty-four to thirty-two feet long by fourteen wide. This *drawing* therefore will suffice for them all ; they were all built by the family of *Godolphin*, and I don't think any of them older than the *Restoration*.

From AGNES we came cross a bar of sand be-

\* *Lel. It.* Vol. III. pag. 9.

twixt *The Cove* on our right hand, and a very rocky Creek on the other, till we got to the *Guéw*, a part of *AGNES*, and never divided from it, but by high and boisterous tides. Here, on a plain we found a large stone-erect nine feet high by two feet six inches wide ; on one of the eminences was a *Stone-burrow*, in the middle of which is a *Cave* thirteen feet long, four feet four inches wide, covered with five large flat stones laid across ; many little low *Burrows* edged with stones we found here, and the signs of *Stone-hedges* and *Inclosures*, plain evidences of its having been once cultivated and inhabited, but at present there is neither Corn nor Field, this *Guéw* (in *Cornish* signifying a plain Field) serving only as a Croft or coarse *Common* to *AGNES*.

ANNET. As the *Guéw* lies to the Eastward, the Isle of *ANNET* lies about two hundred fathom to the Westward of *AGNES* ; 'tis a narrow slip, mostly rock, consisting of about ninety or an hundred acres. Upon it are some *Rock-basins*, and the remains of *Hedges*, and the sand being washed away a few years since by some high Tides, discovered the walls of a house,







house ; but what is more remarkable, there are some *Rock-basins* on several large stones, which, lying at present under full Sea-mark, are covered by the Sea when the Tide is in, of which *Phænomenon* I shall take further notice in the sequel of these papers.

TRESCAW Landing at the Southermost point of TRESCAW, otherwife called St. NICHOLAS Island, we walked over a very rough *Beach* up to an old *Breastwork* \* PE.III. called *Oliver's Battery* \*. It is a Plot irregular N° 38. and uneven, and seems to have been fortified long before the age of the man, viz. *Oliver Cromwell*, whose name it bears. The Parliament forces under General *Blake*, and Sir *George Aske*, intent upon reducing SCILLY, the last retreat of the Cavaliers, took footing at first in this Island of TRESCAW. At their approach six hundred men of the King's party retired by night to St. MARY's, where there were at that time, a thousand men more, and among them a great number of officers. When the King's soldiers were drawn off, the enemy seem to have made use of this old *Breastwork* to erect an advanced Battery, that

G

might

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might command the Harbour, together with *Broad* and *Crow-Sounds* \*, *New* and *Old Grynsey* having fallen before into their hands, and lying in their Rear. This Battery therefore not only covered their camp, which lay on a low neck of land \*, about a mile to the North (where their Huts and Lines are still to be seen) but could reach any Ship that went into, or came out from St. MARY'S, and generally with effect, for when the winds or tide were at all violent, Ships must come very near this Battery or run upon the Rocks, or Flats. The consequence of this skilful disposition of the Parliament's forces was, that the King's party being soon distressed, one Mr. *Philips* was sent for orders to the Prince then in *Holland*, and the Cavaliers had leave to surrender, and make the best terms they could for themselves. Eight hundred soldiers were taken prisoners upon the capitulation, and officers (among whom was the Governor Sir *John Granville*, afterwards Earl of *Bath*) enough to head an army †.

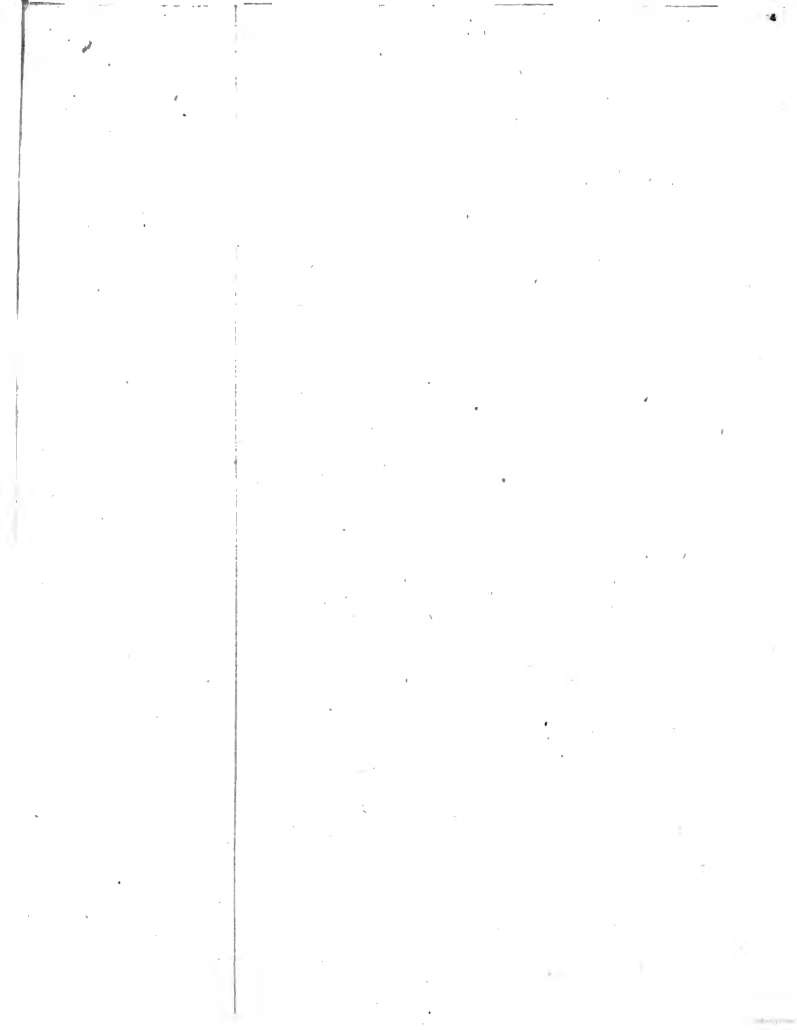
\* Pl. I.  
Fig. i.

\* Pl. V.  
Nº 5.

From this old Battery, descending betwixt the

† Whitlock.

Sand-

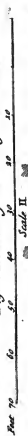




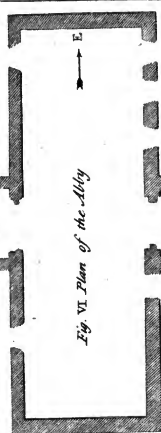
*A Conical  
roof  
natural  
size*



*Fig. V. Ruines of the Abbey on Trearaw*



*The Giant's Cave by Scale II  
Fig. VII.*



*Fig. VI. Plan of the Abbey*



*Fig. VIII. St. Agnes Church  
by 2\"/>*

Sand-banks we went towards the *Abby*, passing on by the brink of the *Abby Pond*, a most beautiful piece of fresh water edged round with *Camomel Turf*, on which neither *Brier*, *Thistle*, nor *Flag* appears. I judge it to be half a mile long, and a furlong wide. An Evergreen Bank without Rock or Weed rises high enough to keep out the Sea, serving at once to preserve the Pond, and shelter the *Abby*. The water is clear and contains the finest *Eels* that can be tasted: The land quite round is cultivated, and by it's gentle declivity even to the brim of the water, adds much to the beauty of this place.

The *Abby* Church stood on a small Rising fronting the Southern end of this Pond, and though higher up on the hill behind the *Abby* you see the *Bare Bones*, that is, the Rocks and Craggs of SCILLY, yet here at the *Monastery* you see but little indeed, but it is altogether tender and delicate, compared to what the other prospects in these Islands afford you. The *Monks*, 'tis generally allowed, were very judicious in chusing situations the most pleasant and retired of the coun-

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try where their lot fell, and were you to see the Isles of SCILLY, you would think their seating themselves here was a strong proof of that observation. The Church is for the most part carried off to patch up some poor Cots, which stand below it, on the spot where I imagine the *Monastery* stood; but the door, two handsome large arched openings, and several windows are still to be seen \*, cased with very good Free-stone, which, 'tis thought, the *Monks* got from *Normandy*.

\* Pl. IV.  
Fig. 5 & 6

From the *Abby* we mounted a high ridge, from whence we had a pretty prospect of *New Grynsey* Harbour \*, and descending passed the neck of land called *Oliver's Camp*, where it may not be amiss to observe, that *Oliver's Camp*, Castle and Battery were so entitled in honour of *Cromwell* the Protector, and not because he in person was ever here; thence we ascended a high hill called *Dolphin Downs*, where stands a pole, on which, by hoisting a flag, notice was to be given to Ships at a distance that pilot boats were coming out. For this purpose a generous Captain of a Ship gave the  
Mast

Maſt that ſtands here, and Colours for the ſignal, but the latter are decayed, and the former is made no uſe of. On theſe Downs we ſaw a large opening made in the ground, and dug about the depth of a common Stone Quarry, and in the ſame ſhape. There are ſeveral ſuch in the pariſh of St. *Juſt*, *Cornwall*, where they are called *Koffens*, and ſhew that the more antient way of mining was to ſearch for metals in the ſame way as we at preſent raiſe ſtones out of Quarries, which, as the metals bear no proportion to the Strata of ſtone in which they lie, muſt have been very tedious and expenſive.

A little further we found a row of ſhallow Tin-pits, none appearing to be more than four fathom deep, moſt of them no deeper than what the Tinnars call *Coſſean* Shafts, which are only fix or eight feet perpendicular ; to the Weſt end of theſe Pits there is the mouth of the Drain, or Adit. This courſe of Tin bears Eaſt and Weſt nearly, as our Loads, or Tin Veins, do in *Cornwall*. Theſe are the only Tin Pits which we ſaw, or are any where to be ſeen, as we were informed, in theſe Iſlands.

From

From this Tin-courfe, which lies near the Northern point of the Promontory, we turned our eyes and ſteps towards the *Old-caſtle*, and in our way were detained a little by a vaſt Rock, flat, and ſhelving on the ſurface, nineteen feet long. It had a Trench round it, which was edged with a Bank of ſmaller ſtones, and made a full circuit round the Rock thirty-fix feet diameter. In the Antiquities of *Cornwall* \* (to which give me leave to refer you both for the Drawings and Explication) I have taken notice of a ſurpriſing conformity betwixt this and a natural Rock at *Karn-men-elez* in *Wendron* Pariſh, which is of the ſame length as this, and ſurrounded by a circular Trench within fix inches of the ſame diameter. Probably they were Altars, if not, they muſt have been Rock-Deities, for *Pliny* tells us, that the ancients with great veneration incloſed thoſe Rocks from profane approach, which ſerved them as objects of their devotion. This remarkable Monument was about two Bow-ſhots Weſt and by North of the *Old-Caſtle*.

\* Pl. V.  
N<sup>o</sup> 7.

The *Old-Caſtle* \* is a large pile of ruins; many  
Windows,

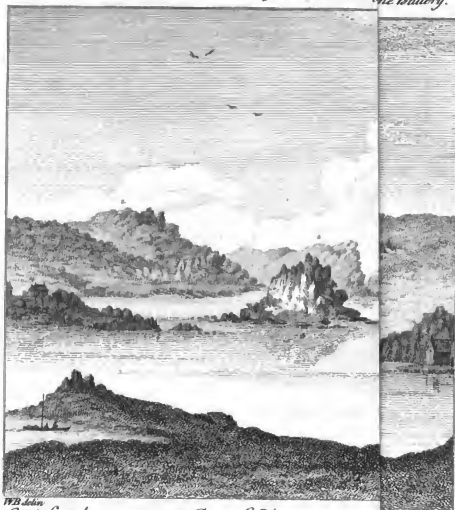
\* Page 189.





NEW GRYNSEY. 1 Shipman Head. 2 Part of Brewhar. 3 *the Battery.*

Plate Vp47



W.B. delin.  
Car. Lyttleton L.L.D. R.S.S. Dec. Exon: pro amore q. voluit.

Windows, Door-cases and Embrasures towards the Harbour of *New-Grynsey* are still standing, and shew it to have been a work of labour and expence, rather than of skill; round, and contiguous to it on the land-side, are the Lines of a Fort, regularly laid out into *Curtain* and *Bastion*, but principally intended as a security against any Land-attack; towards the sea, the steep craggy Hill answers that purpose. This Pile is not very ancient, as by the square shape of the Windows, Doors, and Chimneys is plain. I think the building can't be older than *Henry VIII.* *Leland* calls it a Little Pile or Fortrefs, which makes me think that it might be repaired and enlarged some little time after him; but as soon as people knew the nature of Fortifying better, it was neglected, and another more serviceable one, which lies below, built out of it's ruins; and called *Oliver's Castle.*

Ascending by a few stone steps into this Fortrefs \* we landed on the principal Battery \*, which with no larger Guns than *Nine-pounders* commands the Harbour of *New Grynsey* more absolutely,

\* Pl. V.  
N<sup>o</sup> 6.  
\* Ibid.  
N<sup>o</sup> 8.

lutely, than any Cannon of what size soever could have done from the *Old-castle*. From this Battery we passed into a Guard-room in the *Round Tower*, from which we ascended into another room arched with a stone roof, the more securely to support a Battery of small Cannon (*Four-pounders*) on the top of this Tower. The Parapet here is about six feet high, and in the side of it the Ensign-staff is fixed. This Fortrefs was repaired in 1740, and put into a very good condition of defence, but there being no Gunner, Inhabitant, or Guard kept there, the Timber Works are already much decayed.

The principal Tenement of this Island is called the *Dolphin* ; it's soil is so very fruitful, that one field of seven acres has been in tillage every year since the remembrance of man, and carries exceeding plentiful crops. The Church is exactly of the same make as that at AGNES ; and in a little Meadow adjoining to it, the Tenant told us he had offered leave to his Brother-Islanders to bury their dead, but they have, continued he, such a notion of the superior sanctity of the *Abby*, that they carry the dead body there and interr it in  
that

that Church, though at near two miles distance. This opinion however is not so absurd as it may appear at first sight, for the Bishops anciently never suffered the dead (as you very well know) to be buried any where but at the Mother-church; and in the erection of Chapels-of-ease, or Chapels in great Men's Palaces, it was expressly provided by the Diocesan, that the dead should be buried at the Mother-church, and when the Chaplain of *Stratton-Audley*, in the third of *Henry VI.* presumed to bury two corpses in the said Chapel, the Patrons of the Mother-church complained, and the Bishop determined in favour of them against that illegal Practice \*. From the Church we soon came to a Cove called *Old Grynsey*, in which I counted fifteen Boats, all laden with Ore-weed for making *Kelp*. On a point of this Cove stands a small Block-house with a Battery contiguous called *Dover*, designed to command this passage into *HELEN's Pool* and *St. MARY's Harbour*. *TRESCAW* contains about forty families, and it's annual value is eighty pounds a year. This Island is called in *Leland* <sup>1</sup> *St. NICHOLAS Isle*, said to be the

\* Kennett's Parochial Antiquities, pag. 591. <sup>1</sup> It. Vol. VII. pag. 108.

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 largeſt of all the Iſlands, and in his time to contain ſixty houſholds ; but (if what he ſaid of it's extent was true) it has loſt much of it's lands ſince that time, for it is at preſent but little more than half as big as St. MARY's. I could hear nothing of the wild Boars which *Leland* ſays were here.

St. HELEN's. HELEN's Pool\* is a pleaſant round Baſon, in which  
 \* Pl. III.  
 N° 22. ſmall Ships may ride ſafely. The lower part of this Iſland ſeems very good ſoil ; 'tis now deſerted, but was formerly cultivated, inhabited, and of great reſort, unleſs I am miſtaken, in times of ſuperſtitious Pilgrimage. " St. LIDE's Iſle, ſays *Leland* ", wher yn " tymes paſt at her ſepulchre was gret ſuperſtition." This is called St. HELEN's by the Iſlanders, but I ſuſpect the true name to be St. ELID's, it being the ſame, as I apprehend, which in the Records is called *Infula Sancti Elidii* ".

\* Vol III. pag. 9.

" See Pope *Cleſtin's* Confirmation Bull Monafterion Ang. p. 998. and the Charter of *Reginald*, Earl of *Cornwall*, ibid. pag. 1002. *Leland*, or his Editors have made this a Female Saint, but in the Records 'tis otherwiſe. In the firſt grant of

theſe Iſlands to *Francis Godolphin*, Eſq; 13th of *Elizabeth*, are diſtinctly mentioned (as if two different Iſlands) "*St. Helen's Iſle, Lyde's Iſle*," but the word *or*, or *alias*, is here wanting, and it ſhould be written, (at leaſt as I conjecture) *St. Helen's Iſle, alias, Lyde's Iſle*.

The

OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY. 51

The Church of this Island, the plan of which  
 \* Pl. IV. I send you \*, is the most ancient Christian building in all the Islands: It consists of a South-Isle thirty-one feet six inches long, by fourteen feet three inches wide, from which two Arches, low, and of uncouth style, open into a North-Isle twelve feet wide by nineteen feet six inches long; two Windows in each Isle; near the Eastern Window in the North-Isle projects a flat stone to support, I suppose, the image of the Saint to whom the Church was dedicated. Ruins of several houses appear still round the Church.

**NORTH-  
WETHEL**      Betwixt St. HELEN's and TRESCAW there is a little  
 \* Pl. III. Island called by the Islanders NORTH-WETHEL \*,  
 N° 35. but more rightly, as I apprehend, ARWOTHEL, as the first grant by *Elizabeth* \*, consisting of about ten acres; there are several *Rock-basins* on it; one sepulchral *Burrow*, some remains of Hedges, several very large Rocks, and a Ledge called the *Tolmén*, from a Rock thirty-three feet round and twenty-four feet over; it stands on two stones, so that a man can creep under it; it is in the fall of the Hill beneath a large Karn of Rocks; there is no Bason

\* *Heath*, pag. 200.

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on this *Tolmén*, but 'tis the only Monument of that  
kind which I have found without one.

TEAN. From St. HELEN's we passed close by a little  
Island called TEAN ° (probably the *Sancta Theona* of  
the Records) at present uninhabited, but on it are  
some ruins and fields of Corn and Pasture, and it  
is remarkable for having been the habitation of one  
Mr. *Nance of Cornwall*, who first introduced the  
making of *Kelp* into these Islands.

St. MAR-  
TIN's.  
\* Pl. III.  
Nº 23. Landing in a sandy Cove at St. MARTIN's \*, the  
first thing which appeared to us worth notice, was  
a Circle of Stones erect twenty-feet diameter. On  
the top of the adjoining Karn a large long stone  
(now fallen) stood upright, seven feet six inches  
long. Next, two circular sepulchral *Burrows*; a  
third erected on the very summit, had a covered  
Cave in the middle; two hundred paces to the  
left there was another of the same kind; on the  
highest crag of this Hill we saw several *Rock-  
basins*, some shelving, and declined from their  
first position by some violence, for in large Rocks

° *Thomas* Bishop of *Gloucester* was  
elected Archbishop of *London*, A.D.  
545. *Usher's Primordia*, pag. 525.

526. and was probably the Saint  
who gave Name to this Island.  
which



which have not been moved, they are always horizontal.

This Island seems to have been entirely cultivated in former times, for every where as we went (through the whole length of it) we could trace Hedges so plainly crossing the ridge, and descending to the Sea on either hand of us, that there can be no doubt but that the land was inclosed and divided into fields anciently, though now for the most part incapable of cultivation, because over-run as it is with sand, the soil is quite buried : the present fields are very small, lying towards the South from the decline of the Hill to the edge of the water, but the higher parts are all one *Common*, the surface being either too stony and shallow to make arable ground, or covered with sand blown in from some Northern Coves below ; however, what has suffered so much from the sand in former ages has in length of time contracted soil enough to form a turfy pasture on which the inhabitants keep many sheep, the sheep-run being two miles long, but below this Turf, there is nothing but sand for a great depth.

There

There is a little Pier about the middle of this Island commodious enough for Boats ; above it is a large groupe of Rocks, in which we plainly perceived many pieces clove off (by their own weight, or lightning) from the Rocks to which they belonged, and spreading the sides of the Hill. At the Eastern end is a very rocky and

\* Plate I.  
Fig. iii.  
N<sup>o</sup> 2.

high Promontory called St. *Martin's* Head \*, on the top of which, the late Mr. *Ekin*es, a considerable Merchant of these Islands, built a round Tower twenty feet high, and a Spire on the top of it as many feet more, and plaistered it with Lime on the outside, that it might be a Day-mark to Ships which fall in with this dangerous Coast. The Tower is not solid, but hollow, and over the door is T E †, 1683. There is a stone-stair-case within, by which people may ascend to the top of the Tower, whence you have a larger ken than from below, and a fair view of *England*. The Church here is larger and better seated than that of any of the Off-Islands.

This Island is a narrow ridge of land, and though fully cultivated formerly, had not one inhabitant

† The Initial Letters of *Thomas Ekin*es.

habitant upon it about eighty years since, when Mr. *Ekins* above-mentioned, observing some parts improveable, encouraged a little Colony to settle here, and now it has the finest pasture, which we saw in all the Islands, produces good Corn, and has betwixt sixty and seventy inhabitants. There are eighteen families, all related, have a great opinion of their own Island, are not willing to admit strangers among them, and think they cannot live any where so pleasantly and plentifully as in St. MARTIN'S: Some of them, for want of arable land at home, rent lands in St. MARY'S, or some other Island, and live part of the year there, the more fully to employ themselves, but as soon as their Crop is got in, and the business of their little Farm is over, they return to St. MARTIN'S with pleasure, and look upon that as their home.

They burn much *Kelp* here, and pretend that no other Islanders understand the making it so well as themselves.

BREHAR    Setting sail from St. MARY's for the Islands of  
BREHAR and SAMSON (which were now the only  
inhabited

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inhabited Islands we had not seen) we landed on the former, at a few poor houses called the Town of *Brebar* \*.

\* Pl. V.  
N<sup>o</sup> 4.

Near it there is a very tall pyramidal groupe of Rocks called at present *Hangman Island* \*, from some mutinous soldiers hanged there by the Parliament Forces in the great Rebellion.

\* Pl. V.  
N<sup>o</sup> 3. &  
Plate III.  
N<sup>o</sup> 17.

\* Pl. III. This fland is very mountainous \*, whence it's name, in *Cornubritish*, signifying a high Mountain.

N<sup>o</sup> 15.

\* Ibid. On the first Hill \* are many small *Burrows* edged with stone (as in the other Islands) scattered through the Downs, on the Knoll of which are the remains of a circular piece of Masonry ten feet diameter, probably an ancient Day-mark, for it might be seen far to the Westward. Hard by, I observed a small Circle edged with Stones-erect about eight feet diameter, planted on the back of a Rock; as this Circle could not be sepulchral, 'tis not unlikely that it was designed for Fire Worship. There are remains of Hedges on this Ridge, which is now mostly laid bare by the violent Spray of the Sea, and the little foil which the weather

N<sup>o</sup> 15. a

weather has spared, is cut up as Turf, and carried off for fuel ; 'tis between this Hill and the Northern point of TRESCAW that the Harbour of *New Grynsey* \* takes in Ships of two and three hundred ton to ride afloat under *Oliver's Castle* \*, and smaller Ships to lie safely upon the sand-banks farther in.

\* Plate V.

\* Ibid.  
N<sup>o</sup> 6.

Pl. III. Passing from this Hill to another \*, and keep-  
N<sup>o</sup> 15 b ing the highest ground we came to a very large circular *Burrow* of stones seventy-seven feet diameter : Within this *Burrow* are many *Kistvaens* (as the *Britans* call Stone-cells) and many of the flat stones which covered them lie here and there, some keeping their first station, and some removed to make Stands for shooting Rabbits, with which this part of the Hill abounds.

This *Burrow*, you see, was not the Sepulchre of one only, but of many.

SCILLY  
ISLAND.

\* Pl. III. BREHAR, and the Isle of *Guél* \*, stretching away

N<sup>o</sup> 16.

\* Pl. III. towards the little Isle of SCILLY \*, and with it

N<sup>o</sup> 13, 14

I

making

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making a curve, of which SCILLY is the head land ; and from the furthermoſt Hill of BREHAR a Promontory ſhoots out, at the extreme point of which riſes a vaſt rocky Turret called the Caſtle

\* Pl. III. of BREHAR \*, on every ſide many Rocks ſhew  
N<sup>o</sup> 12. themſelves above water, and intimate their former connexion with BREHAR, and their being reduced to their preſent nakedneſs by the fury of the Ocean. From this diſpoſition therefore of the Rocks and Iſlets on this ſide, we may answer a queſtion, which would otherwiſe be extremely difficult to ſolve, *viz.* How came all theſe Iſlands to have their general name from ſo ſmall and inconfiderable a ſpot as the Iſle of SCILLY, whoſe Cliffs hardly any thing but Birds can mount, and whoſe Barrenneſs would never ſuffer any thing but Sea Birds to inhabit there? A due obſervation of the Shores will answer this queſtion very ſatisfactorily, and convince us that what is now a bare Rock about a furlong over, and ſeparated from the Lands of *Guél* and *Brehar* about half a mile, was formerly joined to them by low necks of Land, and that TRESCAW, St. MARTIN's, BREHAR, SAMSON, and the Rocks and Iſlets adjoining, made  
formerly

• Plate I. formerly but one Island \*, nay, to these, I believe, I may safely add the Eastern Islands and St. MARY's too, there being great Flats reaching from St. MARTIN's almost to both, all uncovered at Low-water, and having but four feet water in the deepest part. This (at that time) great Island had several Creeks, such as *New* and *Old Grynsey* and others, by the Sea's incroachment, or by the dipping of the Lands, since extended into Harbours: It had also several Head Lands, of which that now called *Scilly* was the highest, outermost, and consequently most conspicuous. To pursue this conjecture a little further; when all these Islands abovementioned made but one, that one went by the name of SYLLÊ, or some word of like sound and derivation, and having some little Islands scattered round it, it imparted it's name to it's inferiors, whence what were called by the *Greeks Cassiterides*, were named by the *Latin* Authors *Sigdeles*, *Sillinae*, *Silures*, and by the *English* *Sylley*, *Sulley*, and *Scilly* <sup>b</sup>.

I 2

I must

<sup>b</sup> To comply with the general way of spelling this name I write it SCILLY, but I find not the, c, in

any ancient Record, and therefore I should chuse to call it SULLEH, or SYLLEH, as more agreeable to the *British*

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I must go farther still, and observe, that the Promontory (for such it was as you will find by the sequel of these papers) now called SCILLY Island, lying the Westermost of all the high lands, was the first land of all these Islands discerned by Traders from the Mediterranean and *Spanish* Coasts, and as soon as discovered was said to be SCILLY, nothing being more usual with Sailors upon their first seeing land, than to call the part by the name of the whole, with proofs of which I will not detain you. But when this considerable Island was broke to pieces, and the great portions became inhabited, they required distinct appellations, and were called according to the Religion of the times, when the

*British* words of which I think it is composed; for the *British* name (as I apprehend) which the Ancients found these Islands called by among the Natives was SULLEH, signifying flat Rocks of, or dedicated to the Sun. So St. *Michael's Mount* was originally called in *British* DIN-SUL, i. e. the Hill belonging, or dedicated to the Sun; and the vast flat Rocks common in these Islands, particularly at *Peninis*, *Karn-leb*, *Pen-leb*, *Karn-worvel*, but above all the vast Rock on *Salakee Downs*, formerly the floor of a great Temple, are no improbable arguments that they might have had the same dedication, and so have given name

to these Islands. But as this *British* derivation is only my own conjecture, I desire it may pass for no more. I will only observe, that it is no unprecedented thing to find an Island in this climate dedicated to the Sun, for *Diodor. Sicul. Lib. III.* speaking of a Northern Island over-against the *Celtæ*, says, "it was dedicated to *Apollo*, who frequently conversed with the inhabitants, who had a large Grove and Temple of a round Form, to which the Priests resorted to sing the praises of *Apollo*;" and there can be no doubt but this was one of the *British* Islands and the Priests *Druids*—See *Ant. of Cornwall*, Lib. II. Ch. 17.

Monks



Monks were settled among them<sup>\*</sup>, after the names of particular Saints. The chief division was called St. MARY'S in honour of the Virgin-Mother; the next dedicated to St. *Nicholas*, the general Patron-Saint of all seafaring people, the others to St. *Martin*, St. *Samson*, and so on, but this remarkable Promontory now called SCILLY, being no longer fit for habitation was dedicated to no Saint, but left to enjoy it's ancient name, and notwithstanding the modern Christian Dedications, Sailors went on still in their old way; this high land was called SCILLY still, and the Islands in general are still denominated (from what was anciently their principal) the SCILLY Isles. Of this enough.

On the Sea-shore of BREHAR is the Church, built about ten years since, the Lord-Proprietor, as soon as the inhabitants can make up a congregation, willingly building them a Church.

Two furlongs South of the Church, on a green Plot near the water side, is a small regular Entrenchment, designed, I suppose, for an Advanced

<sup>\*</sup> In *Abelstan's* reign, if not before.

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Guard or Place-of-arms for the Parliament Forces; the Curtain of it is but twenty-one feet long, and from one Curtain cross to the other is but fifty-four feet. Many ruins of houses appear in the higher BREHAR, the foundation stones still remaining in their place.

The Sands reach from this Island inwards to TRESCAW, and may sometimes be passed on foot, but without, towards the Ocean, the water is very deep. It is the roughest and most mountainous of all the Islands, and not many years since there were but two families in BREHAR, now there are thirteen; its annual value is thirty pounds.

SAMSON.

\* Pl. III.

N<sup>o</sup> 11.

The Isle of SAMSON \* looks at a distance like two huge *Burrows* linked together at the edges, which, in the prospect from St. MARY's, have a beautiful effect, being taper well-shaped Hills, and green from top to bottom; but, when you come to it, it does not answer expectation. The green sides of it bear little else but *Ferns*. The Sand, some of the brightest colour I saw in all the

the Islands, has been blown up by the Northern winds, and covered great part of that which is called the BREHAR Hill of SAMSON\*: it is blown off again in some little breaks and chanel of the Hill, where I saw Hedges of stone <sup>4</sup> six feet under the common run of the Sand-banks: here are also many remains of Hedges descending from the Hill, and running many feet under the level of the Sea towards TRESAW, and I must observe to you, that the Flats hereabouts betwixt TRESAW, BREHAR and SAMSON, are quite dry at the low water of a Spring-Tide, and men easily pass dry-shod from one Island to another over Sand-banks, where Hedges and Ruins are frequently discovered upon the shifting of the Sands, and upon which at full Sea there are ten and twelve feet of water.

\* Pl. III.  
Nº 11. C.

These are certain evidences that the Islands last mentioned were once one continued tract of Land, divided into Fields, and cultivated even in those low parts which are now over-run with the Sea and Sand.

<sup>4</sup> The Fences of Fields, made of Rude Stones laid edgeways, and not in Mortar, we call, in *Cornwall*, Hedges.

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On this first Hill, among a large groupe of Rocks, one Canopy-Rock projects from the rest five feet six inches, and stands six feet eight inches from the ground. There is such an one on *Karn-bré* Hill in *Cornwall*, which has a row of Rude Stone Pillars before it, probably a *Druid* Seat of Judgment \*. On the very summit there are eleven *Stone-Burrows* of like structure to those of the other Islands.

• Pl. III. On the second Hill \* we found two *Rock-basins*,  
N<sup>o</sup> 11. d. and some Ruins of Houses ; on a *Stone-Burrow*, a *Kistvaen* ; and in the top of the Hill, a vast range of Rocks, many stones fallen from it bestrewing the sides ; one large Rock in particular was shewn us split to pieces by Lightning a few years since, and the pieces, though split clear off, lying contiguous to one another. Many more Ruins appear in this Hill, shewing that this Island was formerly much better inhabited 'till the Sea and the Sands had forced the people to desert it. There are at present but two families that live here ; they have a few little Meadows round their Houses, but

\* See *Cornish* Antiquities, pag. 115.

the

the Land will not produce half Corn enough to suffice them ; they employ themselves therefore in Fishing and making of *Kelp*, and these two occupations supply what their Land denies them.

EASTERN ISLANDS.

There are several little Islands which lie to the Eastward of the rest, and are therefore called the *Eastern Islands* \* ; on one of them, called ARTHUR, there are three *Burrows* and the remains of Hedges, but nothing else remarkable.

\* Plate I.  
Fig. i.  
& ibid.  
Fig. iii.  
N<sup>o</sup> 13.

In all the Islands, according to the best information I could get, there are about one thousand inhabitants.

If you are tired, Sir, with the rough ground I have made you tread in the descriptive part, throw aside what follows 'till you have taken breath a little, or rather much, and can listen to my Observations on the Natural History, and the Ancient and Present State of *Scilly Islands*, as far as my short stay there enabled me to judge.

*Air.*

The Air here must be healthy in general, fanned as it is by the Sea-breezes rising from every quarter, and uninfected by any large marshy grounds ;

K

but

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but Sea-fogs are more common here than where there are larger tracts of land. If a storm happens before their Crops are above ground, or after they are housed, it throws the Spray of the Sea over their ground ; and if gentle showers soon succeed, 'tis observed that their Grass is greatly quickened by being thus washed by the Sea ; but there being no shelter of Shrub or Tree, nor any deep Valleys, storms do great damage (whatever point the winds blow from) to the Crops, driving the Salt Spray of the Sea with such fury, that they break or burn up every thing that is tender ; but these are inconveniences to which all little Islands in our climate are equally subject ; some others are peculiar to this situation : in the months of *June* and *July* they burn the *Ore-weed* to make *Kelp*, which fills the Air with a heavy stinking vapour, that is not soon dispersed : In the Summer the Air is very hot, because they have so much Sand ; and in the Winter the Sand is apt to be blown up from their Coves, and makes going abroad very disagreeable.

They have few distempers here. The *Ague* happens but seldom, and to have a *Fever* is a rare thing. About fourteen years since they had

a *Fever* which was infectious and carried off several; they have had a *Fever* also lately, by which some have died; these are reckoned extraordinary incidents; the *Small-Pox* is their most common and fatal distemper.

In all such little Islands Spirituous Liquors are too much used; but those that live temperate here, live to a great age.

*Sands.* In several places I examined their Sand, and found it to consist of small Gravel mostly broke off, as it seem'd to me, by the violence of the Sea, from the *Moorstone* which line the shores of all the Islands in great plenty. The finest Sand, much coveted by the *Cornish* and others, for scouring Bras, Pewter, &c. and for drying up Writing-ink, is found only in *Porthmellyn* Cove on St. MARY's. Upon examining this by a *Microscope* I found it to consist of Glebes of white transparent *Crystal* and *Talc* or *Talk*. In one part only of St. MARY's they have a shelly Sand, and those who carry on the best Husbandry, use this, and find their account in it; but, generally speaking, too many of the Islanders (listening perhaps to avocations of another kind) depend upon

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the fertility of their Soil, and neglect the proper methods of Cultivation; certain it is that all their *Moorstone* Sand contributes to Vegetation no longer than whilst it retains the Salt which it brings from the Sea; for, as to keeping the Soil lax and open, 'tis not at all wanted, the Soil being naturally what we call *Growan*, that is mixed with rough Gravel (as the *Cornish* word implies) and therefore not apt to bake or grow stiff.

The Soil is very good for Grain of every kind except Wheat, some of which however they have on St. MARY's, but not much, neither will it make perfectly good bread.\*

*Soil.*

They have good Barley and Rye; some, but few, Oats; instead of which they use another Seed call'd *Pillas*, which is very hardy, I mean, will thrive well in the coarsest grounds: It answers all the purposes of Oatmeal, and has generally the preference. It needs not stripping like the Oat, and is therefore call'd the *Avena nuda* by Ray and others.

\* Wheat, however, seems to have been more usually sown on these Islands in former ages, for "Henry III. commands *Drew de Barrentine*, Governor of his Islands of *Scilly*, or his Bailiffs, that they deliver

" every year to *Ralph Burnet* seven quarters of Wheat, which *Robert Legat* used to receive, and which " is echeated to the King." Rot. Claus. 32 Hen. III. m. 2.

Mr. Heath of *Scilly*, p. 180.

There



There is but one Grift-mill in all the Islands, which is the Wind-mill on *Peninis*; formerly there weretwoWind-mills within theLines,which are now in a ruinous condition; but in case a large Garrison should be placed here, as formerly there has been, it would become necessary to restore them; for if at any time it happens to be calm so as that this one Wind-mill cannot work; if the Mill is out of repair, or chances to be too much crouded by the Islanders; people, who cannot be conveniently served here, must grind their Corn at home; for which purpose every house is furnished with a Hand-mill. This Mill consists of two small stones of about two feet diameter, and four inches thick, in the shape of common Mill-stones, which may be set closer to one another or wider, (as they chuse to have coarser or finer Meal) by raising or depressing the upper stone; the Mill is placed at such an height from the ground, as that a man may stand and easily turn the upper stone by means of a stick five feet long, and one inch and an half diameter, one end of which rests in a socket made for it in the middle of the *Radius* of the upper stone, and the upper end is inserted in a hole in a beam of  
the

the chamber above ; in these two holes, the long stick standing obliquely, turns easily with the hand, but the stones being of a small *Area*, and little weight, the Corn is a long while a grinding.

Roots of all kinds, Pulse and Sallets grow well ; Dwarf Fruit-trees, Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, all Shrubs, and whatever rises not above their Hedges do very well ; and even these would do better, if they would provide against storms, by planting shelters of Elder, Dutch-elm, Sycamore, and the like, in Clumps and Hedge-rows ; and 'till they can reconcile themselves to the trouble and time of raising such shelters, all their Vegetables must be exposed, in proportion to their height, to the winds ; but to tell you the truth, the true spirit of Planting either has never reached here, or has been forced to give way to more necessary calls. They have some low lands between *Old-Town* and *Portlannellyn*, which would make fine Meadows (as before has been observed) and at the bottom of *Holy-vale*, there is a marshy piece of ground which would answer the expence of improving with ample returns ; the Cove below it  
is

is called *Portbelik* (i. e. the Cove of Willows) and doubtless so called from the plenty of Willows growing formerly in the wet grounds adjoining; but at present there is nothing to be seen but mire and flags, though the profit that would arise from such a Willow-plantation is very obvious. *Holyvale* is indeed capable of every kind of improvement, but it has not the happiness of any.

*Stones.* The Stones of these Islands are mostly of the grey *Moor-stone* kind, speckled with black spots, and enlivened with a small leafy *Talc* or *Talk*. Some are of a red ground, larded with white debas'd *Crystal* (which the *Germans* call *Quartz*) a beautiful Granite; but amongst such a number of Rocks and Cliffs as I passed over in St. MARY's, and going to the Off-islands (for you must generally walk over a very rocky beach before you come to the land) nothing surpris'd me more than that there should be so few veins in the Rocks of these Islands formerly so famous for Tin. In the Cliffs of *Cornwall* you cannot walk on the Sea-shore without perceiving a number of veins of one sort or other in the Clay, Rubble, or Rock, wherever  
you

you pass, but here 'tis generally one continued Rock, and the interstices so close that scarce a knife can get between: I saw one vein at TRESCAW, mentioned before, pag. 45; it might be two feet wide on a Cliff near a place called the *Gun-well*; there was a very narrow one on the same Island under *Oliver's Battery*; the former has been worked for Tin, and has several *Shafts* and *Burrows* on the course of it, the only ones in all SCILLY; the other we could perceive no metal in. I saw two veins about two inches wide running through the Rocks on the back of the Pier at St. MARY'S: A Gentleman with me thought he found one vein in *Portmellyn Cove*, and these are all we could discover, though our attention that way seldom left us; so differently has Providence formed the *Strata* of different though not very distant places.

*Tin.* That the *Phenicians* accounted their trade to these Islands for Tin of great advantage, and were very jealous of it, is plain from what *Strabo* says\*, that the Master of a *Phenician* Vessel bound hither perceiving that he was dodged by a *Roman*, ran

\* Geog. Lib. iii.

his

his Ship ashore, risking his Life, Ship and Cargo (for which he was remunerated out of the publick Treasury of his Country) rather than he would admit a partner in this traffick by shewing him the way to these Islands. The *Romans*, however, persisting in their resolution to have a share in this trade, at last accomplished it. Now, plain it is, that the few workings upon TRESCAW were not worthy of such a competition; Whence then had they their Tin? I will answer this question as well as I can. Some Tin might have been found in the low grounds washed down from the Hills, and gathered together by the *Flood* and Rain. Some found pulverized among the Sands of the Sea-shore washed out of veins covered by the Sea, and thrown in upon the Sand by the same restless Agent. In *Cornwall* we often find Tin in the like situation. There may be also Tin-veins in those Cliffs which we did not visit, although the Inhabitants, upon enquiry, could not recollect that they contained any thing of that kind; as the *Guél-Hill* of BREHAR,

■ I have been lately informed, that, under one of the Cliffs of ANNET, there is a Load, in which

there is the appearance of Tin, and that it looks as if it had been work'd.

L.

*Guél*

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*Guél* Island, the name *Guél* (or *Huél*) in *Cornish* signifying a Working for Tin. Other Tin they had from their Mines, for though their Mines at present extant are neither ancient nor numerous, yet the ancient Natives had Mines, and worked them, as appears from *Diod. Siculus* \*, and from *Strabo* †, who tells us, that, “ after the *Romans* had “ discovered a passage to these Islands, *Publius* “ *Craſſus* having sailed thither and seen them work “ their Mines, which were not very deep, and that “ the people loved Peace, and, at their leisure †, Na- “ vigation also, instructed them to carry on this “ trade to a better advantage than they had done be- “ fore ; though the Sea they had to cross was wider “ than betwixt it and *Britain* ;” intimating (if I understand him rightly) that, before that time, the *Phenicians* and *Greeks* had engrossed the sole benefit of buying and exporting their Tin, and that *Publius Craſſus*, seeing their Mines shallow, taught them how to pursue the *Ore* to a greater depth ; and, finding the Inhabitants peaceably disposed with regard to their neighbours, and therefore the

\* Lib. V. Ch. 2.  
† Geogr. Lib. III.

† i. e. when they were not employed about their Tin.

fitter for Commerce, and very apt at Navigation, and therefore able themselves to carry the product of their country to market, encouraged them to enter upon this gainful Trade, and depend no longer on foreign Merchants and Shipping, although it was somewhat farther for them to sail to the Ports of *Gaul*, *Spain*, and *Italy*, than to the Coasts of *Britain*, which had till that time been their longest voyage. Besides the Tin therefore, which they found granulated and pulverized in Valleys and on the Sea-shore, they broke Tin out of their Mines, though those Mines are not now to be found; and, in the last place, it must not be forgotten that the Ancients had great part of their Tin from the neighbouring Coasts of *Cornwall*, famous for their Tin-trade as anciently as the time of *Augustus Cæsar*; and whoever sees the land of *Cornwall* from these Islands\*, must be convinced that the *Phenicians* and other Traders did most probably include the Western part of *Cornwall* among the Islands called CASSITERIDES. *Ortelius* is plainly of this opinion, and makes *Cornwall* a part of the CASSITERIDES: And *Diod. Siculus*†,

\* See before, pag. 18.

† Lib. IV. pag. 301. Edit. *Han.* 1604.

does as plainly confound and in his description mix the Western parts of *Cornwall* and the *CASSITERIDES* indiscriminately one with the other; for talking of the Promontory *Belerium*, alias *Bolerium*, the Tin-commerce, and courteous behaviour of the Inhabitants, he says, that they carried this Tin to an adjoining *Brinif* Isle called *ICTIS*, to which at low tide they could have access. Now there was no such Island as *ICTIS* on the Western Coasts of *Cornwall* in the time of *Diod. Siculus*, neither is there at present any one with the properties he mentions, unless it be *St. Michael's Mount*, and the separation between that and the Continent must have been made long since that time. By the first, therefore, *Diod. Siculus* can mean nothing but the *Lands-end*, by the Geographers called *Belerium*; but (confounding the Tin-trade of those Western parts of *Cornwall* with that carried on in *SCILLY*) by the second, he means one of the *SCILLY* Isles, to which they conveyed their Tin before exportation from the other smaller Islands; for thus he goes on, "There is one thing peculiar to these Islands (meaning, that there was no such thing in the *Mediterranean*, where



where the Sea stands nearly of one height) “ which lie between *Britain* and *Europe*, for at full Sea they appear to be Islands, but at low water, for a long way, they look like so many *Peninsula’s* ;” a description exactly answering the appearance of the SCILLY Islands, which were at that time successively Islands and *Peninsula’s*, and lie between *Europe* and *Britain*, as the old Authors all agree, but, through the inaccuracy in Geography, were not able to point out the situation of these Islands more distinctly. This Ictis of *Diod. Siculus* is probably the same Island which *Pliny*\*, from *Timæus*, calls “ MICTIS, about six days sail from *Britain*, said to be fertile in Tin;” where I must observe, that the distance here laid down is no objection to MICTIS’s being one of the SCILLY Isles, for when the Ancients reckoned this place six days sail, they did not mean from the nearest part of *Britain*, but from the place most known, and frequented by them (i. e. by the *Romans* and *Gauls*) which was that part of *Britain* nearest to, and in sight of *Gaul*, from which to the SCILLY Islands the distance was in-

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deed six days usual fail in the early times of Navigation ; therefore I am apt to think, that, by MICTIS here, *Pliny* meant the largeſt of the SCILLY Iſles<sup>4</sup>, as I do not at all doubt but *Diodorus Siculus* alſo did, in the paſſage mentioned above.

*Plants.*

Of the Plants here, I cannot ſend you a full account, becauſe my ſtay was ſo ſhort. The *Sea-poppy* bears a pale yellow ſingle flower \*. The *Eringo*, or *Sea-bolly*, is common on the ſandy Beach ; they have the *Wild Tanſy*, and a kind of *Muſk*, but not the odoriferous. They have *Sea-wreck* among their *Ore-weed* of a fine ſcarlet and

\* As *Baxter*, Gloſſ. in voce Sig-deles.

\* This Root, ſo much valued for removing all pains in the breaſt, ſtomach, and inteſtines, is good alſo for diſordered lungs, and is ſo much better here than in other places, that the Apothecaries of *Cornwall* ſend hither for it, and ſome people plant them in their Gardens in *Cornwall*, and will not part with them under ſix-pence a Root. A very ſimple notion they have with regard to this Root, which falls not much ſhort of the *Druid* Superſtition in gathering and preparing their *Selago* and *Samolus*. This Root, you muſt know, is accounted very good both as an *Emetic* and *Cathartick*. If

therefore they deſign that it ſhall operate as the former, their conſtant opinion is, that it be ſcraped and ſliced upwards, that is, beginning from the root, the knife is to aſcend towards the leaf ; but, if they would have it to operate as a *Cathartic*, they muſt ſcrape the root downwards. The *Senecio* alſo, or *Groundſel*, they ſtrip upwards for an *Emetic*, and downwards for a *Cathartick*. In *Cornwall* they have ſeveral ſuch groundleſs fancies relating to Plants, and they gather the medicinal ones all when the *Moon* is juſt ſuch an age ; which, with many other ſuch whims, muſt be conſidered as the reliques of the *Druid* Superſtition.

other

other pretty colours, and good *Laver*; but of the *Coralline Moss*, so plentiful on the shores of *Cornwall*, I found none. *Sampier* they have of the best and largest kind (far superior to the *Cornish*) and *Wild Garlick* grows, as I was informed, in some of the Off-islands, but I met with none. In their Gardens, Pot-herbs and Herbs for distilling are as plenty and as good as any where. The *Ranunculus*, and *Anemone*, and most flowers will do very well, but if the roots are left long in the ground after blowing, there is a particular malicious Worm which acts the part of *Envy*, and, by it's secret under-ground workings, hinders many a fair flower from blowing.

*Water.* The Water in the high grounds of St. MARY'S is very good. That of *Helveor Well*, about two miles from *Heugh-town*, is remarkably pure and soft. There is a good Well at *Holy-vale*, even with the surface, a *fons perennis*, and a deep one in the Lines belonging to the Master Gunner, the Water of which, compared with that of the celebrated Gun-well of TRESCAW, I found, by my *Hydrometer*, to be of equal lightness. Brooks,  
or

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or Rivers, or indeed any running Water, they have none in any of the Islands, but for a little while after great floods; so that here, upon the whole, the Poet would have but a bad time of it, and might sigh alike for the purling Stream and the shady Grove. *Chalybeate* Waters there are none, (at least that I could find or hear of) which is the less surprising because their Veins and Metals are so few.

*Birds.* They have a small Bird here scarce so big as a *Lark*, of a cinereous and white colour, called a *Hedge-chick*, thought by many equal food to an *Ortolan*. Some *Partridges*, brought over lately to increase and stock the Islands, have answered that purpose very well. Wild-fowl of all sorts, from the *Swan* to the *Snipe*, are to be shot, and most of them in great plenty in the Winter time. Of *Thrushes* I saw a few. Every sort of Tame Poultry they have here in great perfection. Sea-Birds, especially *Puffins*, are very numerous; they build upon the desolate Rocks, and are of a fishy taste. I saw but few, perhaps because they were hatching, or attending their young ones; there must

must also have been great numbers of them formerly, and very easily to be got at; the Crown-Rent being paid in *Puffins*, as early as the time of *Edward I.* and for the sake of their feathers, I suppose, rather than of their flesh, as the rent of some of the Western Islands of *Scotland* for the same reason continues to be paid in Birds to this day.

*Cattle.*

Their Black Cattle are generally small, and yet I saw a young *Bullock* killed there of three years old, of which the owner made six pounds and ten shillings. Generally speaking, they give no Hay to their *Bullocks* (not above two, in the whole Island of St. MARY's, cutting any Grass for Hay) but turn them loose from their fields (when pasture fails) down to the shores, where they feed upon the *Ore-weed*; and the Cattle, which are rear'd in this manner, will not thrive unless they are at liberty to resort to the *Ore-weed*, insomuch that young *Bullocks*, brought from AGNES to St. MARY's, and turned to graze at a distance from the Sea, have been returned to their first owners, or they would have pined away,

M

and

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and died for want of their usual food. They  
assure me, that their Cattle's feeding upon the  
*Ore-weed* does not at all affect the taste of the flesh.

Their *Horses* are small, but lively, and fit  
for labour.

Their *Sheep* thrive exceedingly, the Grass on  
their *Commons* being short and dry, and full of  
the same little *Snail* which gives so good a relish  
to the *Senman* and *Phillac* Mutton in the West of  
*Cornwall*. The *Sheep* will fill themselves upon  
the *Ore-weed* as well as the *Bullocks*.

Most of these Islands have such pasture and rocky  
*Common* as would maintain a number of *Goats* to  
great advantage, and afford the Inhabitants their  
*Kids*, *Milk*, and *Venison*, at a much cheaper  
rate than the *Sheep* does her *Mutton* and *Lamb*,  
(at least without interfering) and in places where  
the *Sheep* will not live without more care than the  
*Goat* requires; and on such an Island as St. HE-  
LEN's, on every side of which (as there is a high  
Hill in the middle) Cattle might find a good shelter  
let

Let the wind blow as it will, I doubt not but Deer, if brought there young from such an exposed hilly Park as that at *Godolphin* in *Cornwall*, and taken care of for a while, would increase and thrive extremely well, there being many evidences in this little pleasant Island of it's having been well cultivated, and well deserving the cultivation, though now desolate.

There is no *Adder*, or venomous creature of any kind to be found in these Islands, so that we ranged through the high *Grass*, *Briers*, and *Ferns* with the greater boldness. In some houses, however, they have very troublesome *Flies*, though not poisonous, as far as I could learn; they hide themselves by day, but come forth in swarms by night, and (as soon as the people are in their beds, and the house quiet) spread themselves over the Kitchen and Pantry, and devour all the Eatables they can come at; there is no other time for killing them than whilst they are thus busily employed, they being exceedingly voracious as well as prolific. This *Fly* is called the *Cock-roche*, has four wings of a brown tortoiseshell colour, the shape

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 and size of that which was brought me may be  
 seen Pl. IV. Fig. iv. but they are sometimes much  
 larger, and I am assured by a Gentleman who has  
 been in *America* some time, that he has seen the  
*Cock-roche* five inches long. It is reckoned a *West-*  
*Indian Fly*, and supposed to have been brought  
 into SCILLY by a Surgeon's chest opened here.

*Rabbits* they have many, but they so undermine  
 their hedges, that the Islanders endeavour all they  
 can to lessen their number. *Hares* they have  
 none, nor will the *Rabbits* suffer a *Hare* to live  
 among them; but as there are many Islands un-  
 cultivated, doubtless the *Hares* and *Rabbits* might  
 both be distributed more to the satisfaction and  
 the advantage of the Inhabitants..

Of their *Fish* I shall say something in ano-  
 ther place.

*Ancient  
 State of  
 these Isles.*

“ These Islands being so noted among the An-  
 cients, I expected to find among the Inhabitants  
 a conscious esteem of their own antiquity, and of  
 the figure they had made in history before the

Philos. Transf. 1753. pag. 55.

other



other parts of *Britain* were at all known, or at least regarded. I was not without some hopes of finding old Towns, old Castles, perhaps Inscriptions, and works of grandeur; but there is nothing of this kind; the Inhabitants are all newcomers; not one old habitation, nor any remains of *Phœnician* and *Grecian* art in the Ports, Castles, Towns, Temples, or Sepulchres. All the antiquities here to be seen, are of the rudest *Druid* times, and if borrowed in any measure from the Oriental Traders (superstition being very infectious) were borrowed from their most ancient and simple rites.

We are not to think however but that *SCILLY* was really inhabited, and as frequently resorted to anciently, as the old Historians relate. All the Islands, by the remains of Hedges, Walls, Houses contiguous to each other, and a number of sepulchral *Burrows* shew that they have been fully cultivated and inhabited.

What the Ancients say of it's Name, Customs, Trade and Inhabitants, I shall not trouble you with,

with, as affording us few lights ; you will find all this collected in the last Edition of *Camden*, pag. 1519 ; but I should not excuse myself, if I did not lay before you the hints, which things themselves suggested, and which our own records supply us with all.

That these Islands were inhabited by *Britans* is past all doubt, not only from their neighbourhood to *Britain*, but from the *Druid* Monuments ; the several *rude Pillars*, *Circles of Stones-erect*, *Kistvaens* without number, *Rock-basons*, and *Tolmens*, all Monuments common in *Cornwall* and *Wales*, equal evidences of the Antiquity, Religion, and Original of the old Inhabitants ; they have also many *British* names at present for their little Islands <sup>a</sup>, Tenements <sup>b</sup>, Karns <sup>c</sup>, and Creeks <sup>d</sup>, and more, doubtless, have been forgot or jostled out by modern ones.

<sup>a</sup> MEN-AR-WARTH, MEN-AR-WIDEN, PENBROS, GWYNHILL, GWYNHILLVEOR, ENYS-AN-GEON, BIGHAL, ENYS-WITHEK, CARREG-STERN, CRI-BAWETHEN-CRIBANEK, ROSVEAN, ROSVEOR, TREANMEN, MEN-CAER-LOW, TRESCAW, GUEL, HENJAK, ARWOTHEL &c.

<sup>b</sup> *Trenewith, Salatee, Trewarthen, Hablings, Tolmen, &c.*

<sup>c</sup> *Karn-morval, Karn-gwavel, Karn-lib, Pen-enys, Mount-Tods, &c.*

<sup>d</sup> *Porthmellyn, Porthlas, Porthcrassau, Porthelik, &c.*

How

How came these ancient Inhabitants then, it may be asked, to vanish so, as that the present have no pretensions to any affinity, or connexion of any kind either in Blood, Language, or Customs? How came they to disappear and leave so few traces of Trade, Plenty and Arts, and no posterity that we can hear of behind them?

In answer to which, as this is the most remarkable crisis in the History of these Islands, you will excuse me if I enlarge; and if I make use of the same arguments which I had the honour lately to lay before the Royal Society<sup>1</sup>, it is because they have the same weight with me now as they had before, and the course of the present subject will not suffer so momentous a part of Natural History to be omitted.

Two causes of the extinction of the old Inhabitants, their habitations, and works of Peace, War, and Religion, occur to me; the gradual advances of the Sea, and a sudden submersion of the Land.

<sup>1</sup> In a Letter to the Rev. Dr. Birch, Secretary of the Royal Society, on the Alterations which the

Islands of SCILLY have undergone since the time of the Ancients, *ibid.* ut *supra*.

The

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The Sea is perpetually preying upon these little Islands, and leaves nothing where it can reach but the Skeleton, the bared Rock.

It has before been mentioned that many Hedges now under Water, and Flats which stretch from one Island to another, are plain evidences of a former union subsisting between these now distinct Islands. History speaks the same truth. "The Isles of "CASSITERIDES, says *Strabo*\*, are ten in number, close to one another, one of them is desert and unpeopled, the rest are inhabited;" but see how the Sea has multiplied these Islands, there are now reckoned more than an hundred and forty, into so many fragments are they divided. The continual advances which the Sea makes upon the Land at present, are plain to all people of observation, and within these last thirty years have been very considerable. I was shewn a passage which the Sea has made within these seven years through the Sand-bank that fences the *Abby-pond*, by which breach, upon the first high tide and violent storm at East, or East-South-East,

\* Lib. iii. Geog.

one may venture to prophesy that this still, and now beautiful Pool of fresh water, will become a branch of the Sea, and consequently exposed to all the rage of tide and storm. What we see happening every day may assure us of what has happened in former times, and from the banks of Sand and the low lands giving way to the Sea, and the breaches becoming still more open and irremediable, it appears that there has been a gradual declension and diminution of the *Solids*, and as gradually a progressive ascendancy of the *Fluids* for many ages. But farther, Ruins and Hedges (as has been observed before, pag. 63.) are frequently seen upon the shifting of the Sands in the *Friths* between the Islands, and the low lands which were formerly cultivated, (particularly those stretching from SAMSON to TRESAW,\*) have now ten feet water above the foundations of their Hedges, although at a reasonable *medium* we cannot suppose these foundations formerly to have been less than six feet above high water level, when the lands were dry, arable or pasture grounds; this therefore will make sixteen feet difference at least between their ancient and present level; there are

\* Ibidem.

several *Phænomena* of the same nature to be seen on these Shores; as particularly a straight-lin'd Ridge like a Causeway, running cross the *Old-Town Creek* in St. MARY's, which is now never seen above-water. On the Isle of ANNET as is said before, pag. 41.) there are large Stones now covered by every full Tide, which have *Rock-Basins* cut into their surface, and which therefore must have been placed in a much higher situation when those Basins, in other places generally so high, and probably of superstitious use for receiving the Waters of Heaven, were worked into them.\* Again---Tin Mines they certainly had in these Islands two hundred Years before Christ<sup>b</sup>. What is become of these Mines? for the Mines at present to be seen shew no Marks of their being ancient. To account for these alterations, the gradual advances and slow depredations of the sea will not suffice; we must therefore either allow that these Lands, since they were cultivated, and built upon, have sunk so much

\* "A person taking a Survey of the *Channel* in the year 1742, took one of his Stations at Low Water, as he told me, upon this Rock, [viz. the *Gulph-rock*, midway betwixt *Penzance* and *Scilly*] "where he observ'd a cavity like a Brewer's Copper, with rubbish at the bottom, without being able to af-

"sign a cause for it's coming there." Heath's Account of *Scilly*, p. 157. *This could be no other than a Rock-basin, and consequently this Rock is greatly sunk by being now entirely covered with the Sea, at least nine hours in twelve.*

<sup>b</sup> See pag. 74.

lower

lower than they were before, or else we must allow that since these Lands were fenc'd and cultivated, and the Houses and other Works now under Water, the whole Ocean has been rais'd as to it's surface, sixteen feet and more perpendicular ; which latter supposition will appear to the learned without doubt much the harder of the two. I conclude therefore that these Islands have undergone some great Catastrophe, and besides the apparent diminution of their Islets by Sea and Tempest, must have suffered greatly by a Subsidence of the Land, (the common consequence of Earthquakes) attended by a sudden Inundation in those parts where the above-mentioned Ruins, Fences, Mines, and other things of which we have no Vestiges now remaining, formerly stood. This Inundation probably destroy'd many of the ancient Inhabitants, and so terrified those who surviv'd, and had wherewithal to support themselves elsewhere, that they forsook these Islands, by which means the people who were the *Aborigines*, and corresponded so long with the *Phenicians*, *Greeks*, and *Romans* were reduc'd to the last Gasps. The few poor remains of the Desolation might soon

lose sight of their ancient Prosperity and Eminence, by their necessary attention to Food and Rayment; no easy Acquisitions, when their Low-lands, Ports, and Towns were overwhelmed by the Sea.

Give me leave to observe in the next place, that this Inundation may be traced in the Traditions we have had for many ages among the *Cornish*, and stands confirm'd by some *Phænomena* on the Shores of *Cornwall*.

That there existed formerly such a Country as the *Lionesse*, stretching from the *Land's-End* to *SCILLY ISLES* is much talked of in our Parts. *Antoninus* places a little Island called *LISSIA* here, but whether he means the *Wolf* Ledge of Rocks mention'd pag. 1, or any Portion of the *SCILLY ISLES* is uncertain; however there are no Appearances of any Island in this Channel at present. Mr. *Carew*, in his Survey of *Cornwall*, (pag. 3.) argues from the plain and level Surface of the bottom of the Channel, that it must at one time have been a Plain extended above the Sea. In the family of *Trevilian*, now resident in *Somerſet* but originally *Cornish*, they have a Story, that one  
of



of their Ancestors saved himself by the help of his Horse, at the time when this *LIONESSE* was destroyed; and the Arms of the Family<sup>1</sup> were taken, as 'tis said, from this fortunate escape. Some Fishermen also have insisted that in the Chanel betwixt the *Land's-End* and *SCILLY*, many Fathoms under water, there are the tops of Houses, and other Remains of Habitations; but I produce these Arguments only as Proofs of the Tradition and strong Persuasion amongst the *Cornish*, that such a Country once existed and is now buried under the Sea, not as Proofs of the Matter of Fact, for of that I am very dubious, the *CASSITERIDES*, by the most ancient Accounts of them, appearing always to have been Islands. I rather guess that this Tradition of the *Lionesse*, and a great Country between the *Land's-End* and *SCILLY*'s being overwhelmed by the Sea, might have taken its rise from that Subsidence and Inundation which not only these Islands have certainly undergone, but part of the Shores of *Cornwall* also, for in *Mount's-Bay* we have several Evidences of a like Subsidence. The principal anchoring place is

<sup>1</sup> Gules, from a Fesse Wavy Azure and Argent, a Horse issuing Ar.  
call'd

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call'd a *Lake*<sup>k</sup>, but is now an open Harbour. *St. Michael's Mount*, from it's *Cornish* Name<sup>l</sup>, must have stood formerly in a Wood, but at full Tide is now half a Mile in the Sea, and no Tree near it. *Leland*, (Itin. vol. iii. pag. 7.) talking of this *Mount*, says that an "ould Legend of *St. Michael* speaketh of a Tounet in this part, now "defaced and lying under the Water;" in confirmation of which alterations I must observe, that on the *Beach* betwixt the *Mount* and the Town of *Penzance*, when the Sands have been dispersed and drawn out into the Sea, I have seen the Trunks of several large Trees in their natural position, (as well as I can recollect) worn smooth just above their Roots, upon which at full Tide there must be twelve feet of Water; neither is what *Mr. Scawen* says in his MS. "an inconsiderable confirmation that *Cornwall* has lost much Land on the Southern Coast, that there was "a Valley between *Ramhead* and *Loo*, "and that there is to be seen in a clear day, in "the bottom of the Sea, a League from the "Shore, a Wood of Timber lying on it's Side un-

<sup>k</sup> *Gwavas Lake*.

<sup>l</sup> *Carreg lûz en Kûz*, a hoary rock in a Wood.

<sup>m</sup> Pag. 9, 10. written in his own hand.

"corrupted,

“corrupted, as if formerly grown therein, when  
 “it was dry ground thrown down by the violence  
 “of the Waves. Of this several persons have in-  
 “form’d me (says Mr. *Scawen*) who have, as they  
 “said, often seen the same.” So that the Shores  
 in SCILLY, and the neighbouring Shores in *Corn-*  
*wall* (not forgetting the *Wolf* Ledge of Rocks  
 midway between both\*) are equal Evidences that  
 there has been a Subsidence of the Land in these  
 Parts, and the Memory of the Inundation which  
 followed upon that Subsidence is preserved by  
 Tradition, though, like other Traditions, greatly  
 enlarg’d and obscur’d by Fable.

When this Inundation happen’d we may be  
 willing to know, but must be without hopes of  
 knowing with any certainty. In the Time of  
*Strabo* and *Diod. Siculus*, the Commerce of these  
 Islands seems to have been in full Vigour; “abun-  
 “dance of Tin carryed in Carts,” says the latter;  
 “but ten Islands in all, says *Strabo*, and nine of  
 “these inhabited.” The Destruction therefore of  
 SCILLY, must be plac’d after the Time of these  
 Authors; that is, after the *Augustan* Age, but at

See before, Note \* pag. 90.

what

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what Time after, I find nothing as yet that can determine: *Plutarch* indeed (of the Cessation of Oracles) hints that the Islands round *Britain* were generally unpeopled in his Time; if he includes *SCILLY* among them, and was rightly inform'd, then this Defolation must have happened betwixt the Reign of *Trajan* and that of *Augustus*.

There was a great Subsidence in the Southern Coasts of *England* in the Time of *Edward* the First, whereby *Winchelsea* near *Rye* in *Sussex* was swallowed up, and it's Ruins are now three Miles within the High Sea\*, and for the unhappy Inhabitants who had lost their Town, *Edward* the First bought Land and gave it them, and there stands the new *Winchelsea*. But I must observe that if the Subsidence at *SCILLY* and *Mount's-Bay* were so late, we could not have been without some notice of it, and in the Complaints of the Monks of *SCILLY* to *Edward* the First (which will be mentioned hereafter) we must needs have found so great a Misfortune particularly men-

\* Norden's Survey of *Cornwall*.

tion'd;

tion'd; whereas their Petition was only for protection from Pirates and foreign Sailors.

In the Year 1014 happen'd a great Inundation, of which the *Saxon Chronicle* gives this account: "*Hoc item anno in vigiliis Sancti Michaelis contigit magna ista Maris Inundatio per latam banc terram quæ longius expatiata, quam antea unquam, demersit multa oppida et hominum numerum inenarrabilem.*" But I think the Catastrophe of these Islands cannot be placed even so late as this; for the Monks being placed here either by *Atbelstan*, in the Year 938, or soon after, nothing of this kind could have happened but it would have appeared somewhere or other, in the Papers or History of *Tavistock Abby*, at least, if the Monks of SCILLY were united to that Abby at it's first Foundation in the Year 961. I therefore conjecture that this Inundation must have happened before *Atbelstan*'s time; and by the *Irish Annals* I find an Inundation which might probably have affected the South of *Ireland*, and at the same time reach'd SCILLY and the Coast of *Cornwall*, which are not above fifty Leagues distant from it to the East, nor much more than a Degree to the South of it.

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“ In the end of March A. D. 830, *Hugh Dorndighe* being Monarch of *Ireland*, there happened such terrible Shocks of Thunder and Lightning, that above a thousand Persons were destroyed between *Corca-Bascoin*, a part of the County of *Cork* then so called, and the Sea side. At the same time the Sea broke through it's Banks in a violent manner, and overflowed a considerable Tract of Land. The Island then called *Innisfadda*, on the West Coast of this County, was forced asunder and divided into three parts. 'This Island, says my Author, lies contiguous to two others, *viz. Hare Island* and *Castle Island*, which lying in a range, and being low ground, might have been very probably then rent by the Ocean.”

As this Inundation in the southern parts of *Ireland* seems well attested, and might not unlikely have reached *Cornwall* and *SCILLY*, I should think it most suitable to History, that this was what reduced, divided, and destroyed

• Smith's Natural and Civil History of *Cork*, Vol. ii. pag. 11.

Keating, pag. 52. — An old Irish MS.

the

the SCILLY Islands, and over-run the Lands on *Mount's Bay*.

*Historical  
Observa-  
tions on  
SCILLY.*

Whether the Emperor *Claudius* subdued those Islands is uncertain, but he is said to have made use of *Arviragus* (son of *Cunobelin*, and Grandson of *Theomantius* Duke of *Cornwall*) afterwards King of *Britain*, to conquer the *Orcades*, and the Provincial Isles.\* Whether SCILLY was rank'd among the latter is doubtful, but not unlikely, considering it's ancient fame for Tin. However that be, SCILLY is only noted for two or three Banishments of disgraced *Romans* during the Empire of that People in *Britain*. During the Piracies of the *Danes*, I conjecture that these Islands frequently serv'd them to retreat to occasionally, the *Giant's Castle* on St. MARY's appearing to have been the Work of the *Danes*. In the beginning of the tenth Century, when Trade began to thrive, Shipping to encrease, and Naval Wars to be carried on in the Western World, then the commodious situation of these Islands at the opening into both the Channels,\* soon shew'd of what

\* Pont. Vir. pag. 28.

\* The *British Channel* on the

South, and St. *George's* Channel on the North.

Importance it was for *Britain* to possess them, and how dangerous they might be to the Safety and Trade of *Britain*, if in an Enemy's Hand. This seems to be the reason why *Athelstan* made a voyage to, and conquer'd these Islands. This Prince was taught by his grandfather *Alfred*'s wife maxims, that the proper and natural security of *Britain* lay in the Royal Navy, and it's Riches in Traffick, and he saw that neither of them could be well provided for, if Islands so situated were not subdued. It was not his own glory, nor any riches which the Islands contained in themselves, but it was, more likely, the safety of navigation, which made this great Prince, after he had entirely vanquish'd the *Cornish* about the Year 938, undertake a Conquest seemingly so little, but indeed of great consequence to his Kingdom as we shall see by and by more particularly.

It is thought King *Athelstan* gave these Islands to Monks, he being, usually very liberal that way.

Whether *Scilly* was included in the Foundation of the Abby of *Tavistock* in the Year 961  
is,



is, I think, uncertain; but Bishop *Tanner*, (Note<sup>†</sup> pag. 69.) says, that it belonged to that Abby before the Conquest. And yet *Henry* the First *Grants* (does not *confirm*, which was the usual expression when Houses or Revenues had before been granted) “ to *Osbert*, Abbot of *Tavistock*, all “ the Churches of *Sully*, with their Appurtenances, and the Land as the Monks or Hermits “ held it in the time of *Edward* the Confessor and “ *Burgald* Bishop of *Cornwall*.”<sup>‡</sup> From which passage it should seem likely: First, that there were, at the time of this Grant, several Churches in SCILLY; and secondly, that the Monks and Hermits there, held them independant of the Abby of *Tavistock*, otherwise this King would have *confirm’d*, or *restor’d*, and not us’d the word *granted* only.

*Reginald* Earl of *Cornwall*, natural son to *Henry* the First, grants and confirms all Wrecks but *Whale* and *Wholeship*, to the Monks of SCILLY, in *Rentemen* and *Nurcho*, and the Isles of St. ELIDIUS, St. SAMSON, and St. THEONA.

<sup>‡</sup> Monast. Angl. pag. 1002.

<sup>†</sup> Ibid.

These

These Monks had also all the Tythes of Scilly, and particularly of *Rabbits*, given them by *Richard Dewick*, for his Soul, and the Souls of his Parents, and of *Reginald* Earl of *Cornwall* his Lord; as appears by the acknowledgment and confirmation of the Bishop of *Exeter*, who therein says, that all the Lands of *Sully* belonged to his Diocefe.\*

Pope *Celestin*, by his Bull dated the fourth of the Kalend of *June*, A. D. 1193, confirms to the Abby of *Tavistock* the Islands of St. *NICHOLAS*, St. *SAMSON*, St. *ELIDIUS*, St. *THEONA*, and one call'd *NUTHO*, with their Appurtenances, and all Churches and Oratories through all the Islands of *SCILLY*, with the Tythes, Offerings, and every thing belonging, and two pieces of digg'd ground in the Isle of *AGANAS*, and three in the Isle of *ENNOR*.†

King *John* (A. D. 1200.) gives, grants, and confirms to the Abby of *SCILLY*, the Tythe of three Acres of *Affart-land*‡, in the Forest of *Guffaer*; and commands his Sheriffs and Bailiffs

\* Ibid.

† Ibid. pag. 998.

‡ Land grubb'd; i. e. cleans'd of Roots, Trees, and Shrubs.

that

that they do not suffer the Canons of SCILLY to be impleaded for any Tenement they hold, except before him, or his Steward of *Normandy*."

In *Henry* the Third's Time we find *Drew de Barrentine* \* Governor of these Islands for the King from the Year 1248 to 1251,\* and Bailiffs under him, and King *Henry* the Third gave him ten Pounds yearly Lands in SCILLY by Deed.

In the Time of *Edward* the First, these Islands were in a declining condition, their want of Security making a want of all things ; for we find a representation made by the Monks to this King, recited in the Letters of Protection, (Monasticon pag. 1002.) " That by the frequent resort of " Mariners of all Nations to that place, the " Priory for want of proper Defence, was so " damaged and impoverished that the Prior was " not able to repair it, nor to perform the requisite Duties of Church Service." *Edward*

\* Cart. i. Joann. pag. 1. n. 155 & 219. Tanner Notit. p. 69.

\* *Drego de Barentine*, Constable of *Windsor* Castle in the forty fourth

of *Henry* the Third. Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, pag. 801.

\* See *Heath* of SCILLY, p. 181.

the First therefore, grants his Letters of Protection to the Prior and Priory, Monks, Chaplains, Servants, Possessions, and every thing belonging thereunto. These Letters were in general addressed to all Persons of Dignity and Command under the King, but particularly to the Constable of the Castle in the Isle of *Ennour* in SCILLY, who seems therefore to have had the chief authority here in the Time of *Edward* the First. This Constable I suppose was *Ranulph de Blankminster* who (temp. Ed. I. pat. 35.\*) held the Castle of *Ennor* † in the Islands of SCILLY by the service of finding and maintaining twelve armed men at all times, for keeping the Peace in those parts: He held the Islands of SCILLY also of the King, paying yearly at *Michaelmas* three Hundred *Puffins*, or six shillings and eight-pence, and “*John de Allet* \* held “all his Lands and Tenements in SCILLY of “*Ralph Blanckminster*, by Knight’s Service, and “by being Keeper of the said *Ranulph*’s Castle, “and by other personal services by himself or “by two men.”

\* Heath, *ibid.* pag. 186.

the great Island.

† Otherwise called *Ennour*, or† Heath, *ibid.* pag. 187.

Give me leave to observe, that this family of the *Blanckminsters* (in Latin *De Albo Monasterio*) was very considerable formerly in *Cornwall*\*, and the same person mentioned in the above Record, liv'd at *Binnomay*, or as in *Camden's Maps Bynaway*\*, a square remarkable Fortification in the Parish of *Stratton*, and lies buried in *Stratton Church*, where his Image is still to be seen, laid along in one of the windows of the North Isle, habited like a Knight Templar, his legs across. It must not be forgot that in the last-mentioned Record, and in a Record of *Edward the Second*, A. D. 1308, the Islands of *SCILLY* are said to belong to the County of *Cornwall*; and in the Eighteenth of *Henry VI.* A. D. 1440, it is said that the Islands of *SCILLY* were held of the King, as of his Castle of *Launceston*. When the County of *Cornwall* was erected into a Duchy, and granted to the King's eldest Son, in the Twelfth of *Edward the Third*, the Islands of *SCILLY* were

\* *Ranulph de Albo Monasterio*, Member of Parliament for the County of *Cornwall*, in the Eighth of *Edward the Second*. *John de Albo Monasterio*, Member for Ditto, in the Forty-seventh of *Edward the Third*.

\* It is written *Benamè* in the 46th of *Edward III.* [*Heath 191.*] as if it was old *French* for *bien aimé*, but whether the name of this place be *Roman* from *Binnovium*, or *Saxon* or *French*, I cannot determine.

forgot, or purposely omitted, for they are not recited in the Grant'. I have heard it therefore disputed whether they are a part of the Dutchy or not. Kings have certainly granted them, at the same time when there have been Dukes of *Cornwall*. King *James* the First (to go no farther back) granted them to *Godolphin*, when Prince *Henry* was Duke of *Cornwall*; and King *Charles* the First, in 1636, granted a new Lease and further Term to the same Family, when his Son *Charles* had been Duke of *Cornwall* six years. Further, the greatest part of these Islands belong'd to the Abby of *Tavistock*, and when that Abby fell with the rest, in 1539, the Lands came to the Crown, and not to the Duke of *Cornwall*. On the other hand, the Feefarm of these Islands is reckoned by Judge *Dodderidge* among the Revenues of the Duke of *Cornwall*, p. 113; and in the Seventh of *James* the First, in an account then taken of the Tenures of the Dutchy of *Cornwall*, the Island of *SCILLY* is reckon'd, *in manu Domini Principis*; viz. in the possession of the Prince then Duke of *Cornwall*. And though they be not

• *Heath* of *SCILLY*, p. 176.

mentioned

mentioned in the Grant of *Edward* the Third, yet perhaps they might have pass'd with the Castle of *Lanceston*, and it's Dependencies, as being confessedly held of that Honour. But this I leave to the Gentlemen of the Long-robe, and return to the Time of *Edward* the First, in the Thirtieth Year of whose Reign, A. D. 1302, the Abbot of *Tavistock's* Rights to Shipwrecks in all the Islands of SCILLY was allowed to be from time immemorial, except Gold, Whale, Scarlet Cloth, and Fir or Mafts; which in the respective Grants were generally reserv'd for the Crown.

In a Patent of *Edward* the Third, A. D. 1345, the Abbot and Convent of *Tavistock* are still Lords of the Island of SCILLY,<sup>c</sup> and were bound to find two Chaplains, from among their Fellow-Monks, to reside and say Mass there for ever; but by reason of the *French* War of those Times, and some other Accidents, the Monks were indulged in this Reign with leave to stay at *Tavistock*,

<sup>c</sup> *Abbas et Conventus de Tavestoke Domini Insulae de Sully.* Monast. Angl. p. 516. SULLY was the general name in the Records for all the Isles. See Charters of Hen. I.

of *Reginald* Earl of Cornwall, &c. in the Monast. 516 and 1002, sometimes, but inaccurately call'd *Insula de Sully*, and the Priory said to be in *Insula de Sully*.

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finding two secular Chaplains to perform Divine  
Service.

However, besides what the Family of *Blanck-  
minster* held here independent of the Abby, the  
*Hamelys*, Lords of *Hakwyn* in *Cornwall*, had the  
property of AGNES Island from the beginning of  
*Edward* III. to the seventh of *Henry* V.<sup>c</sup> One Grant  
obliges the Grantee to pay a Grain of Wheat only  
for seven years; but after that Time yearly One Hun-  
dred Shillings: By which it appears that (considering  
the greater Value of Money in that Age<sup>d</sup>) the Isle  
of AGNES was worth more than it is at present.

In 1418 Sir *John Colsbull*, Knt. \* convey'd to  
*John Preston* and others the Castle and Isles  
of

<sup>c</sup> See *Heath*, *ibid.* p. 187—195.

<sup>d</sup> 'Tis very difficult to discover  
the precise value of Money in the  
different Reigns of English Kings;  
perhaps 'tis one of those parts of  
our English History which will  
never be settled. I guess that at the  
time of *Hamely's* Grant, Money  
was at least ten times its present  
Value; for Two Hundred Pounds,  
according to *Dugdale*, (*Warwicksh.*  
Vol. I. pag. 391.) were as much in  
Value in the 25th of *Edward* the  
First, A. D. 1297, as Three Thou-

sand in the Year 1650; viz. fifteen  
times it's present Value; and in the  
Twelfth of *Henry* the Sixth, viz.  
1434, Money is calculated by the  
same learned Author (*ib. pag.* 413.)  
at six times the present Value; so  
that at a Medium, Money, in the  
24th of *Edward* the Third, (which  
was the Year of this Grant) must  
have been at least ten times it's pre-  
sent Value.

\* Of a considerable Family in  
*Cornwall*, their Burying-place in  
*Dul's* Parish, where there is a hand-  
some



OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY. 109  
 of SCILLY, to the Use of Sir *John Colsbull*, Knt.  
 for Life'; and there is a Memorandum at the  
 bottom of one of the Recitals of a Conveyance  
 of SCILLY to the Heirs of *Colsbull* in the Eight-  
 teenth of *Henry* the Sixth, A. D. 1440, which  
 says that the Islands of SCILLY were held of the  
 King, (as has been mention'd before pag. 105.)  
 and at the Rent of fifty *Puffins*, or six Shillings  
 and Eight-pence yearly. By an Inquisition in the  
 first of *Richard* the Third, A. D. 1484, I find  
 the said Islands were yearly worth "in peaccable  
 " times forty Shillings, in times of War nothing<sup>1</sup>."  
 To such a low condition were they reduc'd in the  
 time of *Richard* the Third. We found them de-  
 clining in the Wars of *Edw.* I. and *Edw.* III. but  
 by the fatal consequences of the long Civil War be-  
 twixt *York* and *Lancaster*, they seem to have been  
 on the Brink of being utterly forsaken. What  
 remain'd to the Laity was little or nothing worth,  
 and the Portion of the Religious could not be in  
 a much better condition, considering the forty  
 years continuance of that Civil War, with such

some Monument to the Memory of  
 Sir *John Colsbull*, Knt. Lord of *Trem-  
 medert*, and Patron of the Church,  
 who died 1483.

<sup>1</sup> Inquis. 5 of *Hen.* V. *Heath*,  
 ibid. 194.

<sup>2</sup> *Heath*, ibid. 196.

Confusion

Confusion and Distress in *England*, upon which *SCILLY* depends so much for the very Necessaries of Life. I guess therefore that about the beginning of *Henry* the Seventh's Reign, *SCILLY* was at one of it's lowest ebbs. The Heiress of *Colsbull* was married to Sir *Ramfrye Arundell* of *Lamburn*, Knt. (temp. *Henry VII.*) and with her these Islands seem to have passed; for in *Leland's* time, one *Davers* of *Daundesey*, a Gentleman of *Wiltshire*, and *Whittington*, a Gentleman of *Glostershire*, were Owners of *SCILLY*, "but they had (says the same Author) scant forty Marks by yere of Rentes and Commodities of it;" now *Elizabeth*, Daughter and Heiress of the said Sir *Ramfrye Arundel*, married *Whittington*, and by a second Husband of the name of *Stradling*, had a Daughter married to *Davers*, into which two Families therefore, these Islands among the rest of her Inheritance came. In the Second of *Edward* the Sixth the Lord *Seymour*, Lord Admiral, was charged with having gotten into his Hands the strong and dangerous Isles of *SCILLY*, bought of diverse Men<sup>a</sup>. In the Sixth of the same Reign, I find *Thomas Godalghan*, Esq; to

<sup>a</sup> See Itin. Vol. III. p. 9.    <sup>b</sup> Coll. of Records, Burn. Reform. 161.

have

have been Captain of the Isles of SCILLY.<sup>1</sup> From private hands they came to the Crown by exchange in Queen *Mary's* time;<sup>2</sup> but in the Thirteenth of *Elizabeth* were granted by her to *Francis Godolphin*, Esq; and from his time we may date the Recovery of these Islands, little Colonies (like great Empires) having their sickly times, from which they are sometimes restored, and in which they sometimes expire.

Queen *Elizabeth* saw their Importance, and having the *Spaniards*, then the most powerful nation by Sea in the World to deal with, ordered and encouraged the abovementioned *Francis Godolphin* (Knighted by her in 1580, and made Lord Lieutenant of the County of *Cornwall*) to improve this Station. *Star Castle* \* was begun, and finished in 1593. At the same time were built a Curtain and some Bastions on the same Hill, and more intended, which are now near finished: Enough was done at that time to

Plate IV.  
Fig. i.

<sup>1</sup> As appears by a Deed mention'd in a Letter of the late *Thomas Yonkin*, Esq; to have been in his Possession, A. D. 1735.

<sup>2</sup> "Hæc Insula tenta fuit per 44 redd. 300 Puffins, et postea per

"excambium devenit ad coronam  
"temp. Mariæ Reginzæ." Tenures  
in the Dutchy of *Cornwall* (belonging to *John Aylis*, Esq; late Garter King at Arms) taken the Seventeenth of *James* the First.

guard

guard the Harbour tolerably well, and the *Pool* just below the Castle: This Castle being built and properly garrison'd, Houses were soon built below the Lines upon the Edge of the *Pool*, and Inhabitants were encouraged to settle here, seeing the place convenient for Ships bound into either Chanel to touch at, commodious for fishing, secure from Pirates, and national Enemies, and Land cheap and improveable by means of the plenty of *Ore-weed* and *Sea-sand*. Before Queen *Elizabeth*, the Inhabitants were so few, and the Value of the whole Lands so inconsiderable, that Sir *Francis Godolphin* was to pay ten Pounds only, as yearly Rent to the Crown, but the safety of the Islands being so well provided for, the Interest and Popularity of the *Godolphins*, uniting with the conveniencies of the Situation, brought here such a number of people, that all notice of the old Inhabitants was soon lost, through an universal attention to the interests of the new. It may surprize one at first coming to find so few places with *British* names, but it must be observed that the new comers had no relation to the old Inhabitants, nor consequently any affection for their Customs

or

or Language, but, as to avoid confusion, all people must have names for Places as well as Persons, it was soon found to be a distinction easier learnt by the generality to call the Lands after the names of the Occupiers, than to retain the more uncouth, and to the vulgar, insignificant old names. Hence it is that so many modern family names are affixed to places<sup>1</sup>. This was a new beginning as it were, to the Settlements at SCILLY, but like all other new Settlements, it requires Time for the Lands to be cultivated, the Harbours to be fenced, and the People to increase. From it's first Grant to the *Godolphins* it has been gradually rising; the Inhabitants are considerably more than they were eighty years since; some Islands which had then few or no Inhabitants, or House, or Field, have now many; their Buildings and Numbers are still increasing, their Lands improv'd, but still capable of much improvement.

<sup>1</sup> Thus, *Bant's Karn* had its name from the Family of the *Bants*; *Bosow Hill* from the *Bosows*; and the Tenements now call'd *Watt's*, *Bamfield's*, *Leg's*, *Toll*, *Thomas*, &c. from the Surnames of the Holders; These were names familiar to the

newly settled Inhabitants, and therefore readily preferred to the *British*, which, however it must be allowed by all Etymologists, were generally imposed with great propriety and expression.

*Present  
State.*

As to Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, these Islands are subject to the Bishop of *Exeter*, as they were, before the See was translated to *Exeter*, to the Bishop of *Cornwall*.<sup>a</sup> In a Letter of *John Grandison*, Bishop of *Exeter* in the time of *Edward* the Third to the Pope,<sup>b</sup> he says, that no Bishop in Person ever *visited* those Islands, but were wont to depute some Friars for this purpose. However, this Bishop did not follow the example of his Predecessors, but directed his Commissions as he thought most proper for the management of the Ecclesiastical Affairs of these Islands, and the support of his own Jurisdiction, which, by the account of his Visitations, that Prelate was extremely solicitous to carry to it's utmost height. Two of these his Commissions are extant in the Register of the Bishops of *Exeter*; one directed to *Richard de Lancastre*, Priest, empowering him to make a Judicial Enquiry into the Crimes, Excesses, and Immorality of the Bishop's Subjects, and the Monks of *Tavistock* Monastery, in the Islands of *Scilly*, and there to correct, punish, enjoin them Penance, and absolve them, according as he should think fit and

<sup>a</sup> See the Grant of *Hen. I.* p. 101. <sup>b</sup> *Grandison's* Regist. vol. ii. fol. cxxxviii. b. necessary,

necessary, or cite them to appear before the Episcopical Chair at *Exeter*. Dated at *Clyst*, on St. *John* Baptist's Day, A. D. MCCCXXX.

The second Commission was directed by him to *Robert Deneys* Prior of the Islands of SCILLY, in his Diocese, empowering him to hear the Confessions of his Subjects there, and (that the safety of their Souls might be the better provided for) to impose and enjoin such salutary Penances as he should think necessary; the Commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the said Bishop. Dated at *Clyst*, the third day of *January*, A. D. MCCCXXX.

Some may perhaps be glad to see in what a stately style the Bishops of those days penn'd their Commissions; for the satisfaction of the Curious therefore, these two instruments are inserted underneath. The

\* Commissio ad inquirendum de Criminibus et Excessibus *Subditorum* Domini (Scil. Episcopi) infra Insulas Sullie. Johannes, &c. Dilecto in Christo filio Ricardo dicto de Lancastre Presbytero Salutem, &c. Ad Inquirendum de quorumcunque *Sub-*

*ditorum nostrorum* infra Insulam & Insulas Sullie nostre Diocescos, et Monachorum Monasterii Tavystocke Ordinis S. Benedicti dicte nostre Dioces, in eisdem Insulis existentium criminibus et excessibus et delictis, eademque crimina, excessus,

The present Islanders of both Sexes are comely, civil to Strangers, and remarkable for speaking good *English*. The Men, though at other times employ'd about Husbandry, are much us'd to Boats and Fishing, which makes them active and hardy, and being also us'd to Fowling in the winter, would soon make either good Soldiers or Sailors, and in times of danger, the Security of these Islands must chiefly depend upon the spirit and docility of the Inhabitants; for their other de-

excessus, & delicta in hujus Inquisitionem etiam qualitercumque comperta, audiend. corrigend. et puniend. et eisdem *subditis nostris* quibuscumque, si oporteat ad comparand. coram *nobis* seu vices nostras gerentibus in Civitate Exon diebus et Locis, per te assignand. prefigend. et citand. eisdem, ac de hujus compertis nobis, seu vices nostras hujus gerentibus locis et temporibus opportunis referend. ac eisdem *subditos* nostros in foro penitentiali audiend. ipsiq; sibi consiteri volentibus, pro commissis, etiam in casibus nobis reservatis, penitencias salutares injungend. et ipsos absolvend. de eisdem, nec non omnia et singula expediend. exequend. et exercend. que in hac parte necessaria fuerint seu etiam oportuna tibi de cujus fidelitate et industria plenam in Domino fiduciam obtinemus vices nostras committimus cum coercicionis canonice potestate. Dat. apud Clyft die B. Johan. Baptis. Anno

Domini MCCCXXX. Grandis. Reg. Vol. ii. fol. cxxxvii.

Commisso ad audiend. confessiones *Subditorum Domini* in Insulis Sullie. Johannes, &c. Dilecto filio, fratri, Roberto Deneys, Priori Insularum de Sully, nostre Diocef. et ut animarum in eisdem Insulis quorum cunque comorantium salutis salubrius consulatur, tibi curam eorundem *committimus* per presentes, *Dantes* tibi potestatem specialem. Confessiones ipsorum etiam in casibus nobis, ut Diocesano, a jure specialiter reservatis audiendi, et eisdem penitentiam salutarem quotiens et quando opus fuerit imponendi, ac injungendi ac alia Sacramenta ministrandi: Concedentes insuper tibi potestatem hujusmodi curam alicui capellano idoneo autoritate nostra committendi presentibus ad nostrum beneplacitum duraturam. Dat. apud Clyft, iii die Januar, Anno MCCCXXX. *ibid.* fol. cxli.

fences



fences are rather imaginary than real, the Garrison consists of but forty Invalids, and the difficulties of finding the way into the Harbours (perhaps too much boasted of, and relied upon) are not really so great but that the Enemy may soon have Pilots.

*Husbandry.*

The Inhabitants employ themselves in Husbandry, Fishing, and making Kelp. Their situation for Husbandry is extremely good; their being in such little Islands places them near the Sea-land, and the Ore-weed, which with the Manure of their Sheep and other Cattle, a good-natured Soil, and plenty of stones on every side to make Fences are great Encouragements to Industry. But they have much coarse Land, one reason of which seems to be, that the Lord grants for no more than the term of twenty-one years, and the greatest part of that term must be expired before any improvements of consequence can be completed; this Tenure therefore, as long as it continues, will probably continue their coarse lands, as well as their poor houses in their present condition.

*Fishing.*

They catch *Mackrel* here in great plenty during their Season: their *Flat-fish*, the *Sole*, *Turbot* and *Plaise*,

*Plaife*, are reckoned to vye with the beſt; they take alſo abundance of *Ling*, which on the Coaſts of *SCILLY* is generally preferred, as being better fed, and leſs ſpent than what is caught in ſhoaler water, nearer the ſhores of *England*: they cure the *Ling* with good ſalt, and ſend it dried to *England*, and elſewhere. They have ſome *Salmon*, and *Salmon-Pele*, *Cod*, *Pollack*, and all other Fiſh uſually caught on the Coaſts of *Cornwall*, particularly great plenty of *Pilchards*, which come into their Coves ſome time before they arrive in the Bays of *Cornwall*, and might be taken moſt commodiouſly (as their coves are ſmall and ſandy) be ſalted, preſſed, and got to market, before thoſe of their neighbours; by curing them the Inhabitants, Men, Women and Children, would be more conſtantly employed than they are at preſent, and both the value of the good lands advanced, and the improvement of the poor lands promoted. This is one of the greateſt advantages of their natural ſituation, but hitherto neglected.

The *Alga-Marina*, *Fucus*, or *Oreweed* is of great benefit to theſe Iſlands, it grows plentifully on the  
Rocks,

Rocks, which, when the Tide is out, are uncovered in great numbers on all the shores, exposing this useful Plant as food to the cattle, and as dressing to the husbandman ; and yet these are not the only uses they make of it, for they collect, dry, and burn it when dried, till it runs into a lumpish metal, or rather a kind of salt dross, which they export to *Bristol* and other places, as one principal ingredient in making glass, and useful also in making Alum, and Soap. In the year 1751 they made as much *Kelp* (so they call this melted Ore-weed) as brought into the Islands five hundred Pounds Sterling.

As this Sir may be a Branch of Traffick entirely new to you, as I confess it was to me though a much nearer neighbour to it, you may perhaps be willing to know the whole process.

*Kelp* is made during the months of *June* and *July*, somewhat later or earlier as the season proves favourable (that is, dry) or otherwise. After *July* they think it for their advantage not to clip, or gather any more Weed, but let it grow till the subsequent

subsequent year. There are several sorts of this *Alga-marina*; the gross Bottle-ore, which has hollow nobs, or pustules in it is reckoned to make the best *Kelp*. Each Island has it's proper limits assigned for gathering, of which limits they are exceeding jealous, and will not suffer any to transgress, and cut Ore in the territories of their neighbours. As the Rocks near the Shore cannot furnish a sufficiency of Weed, they go off in fair weather at full sea, and place their boats among the distant Ledges; when the water sinks and their boat grounds, they get out of their boats, and with hooks cut off from the Rocks the Oreweed and load their boats; when the Tide rises, their boat floats, and they bring their cargo into their own Island where they spread it thin upon the Beach that it may dry; after it has been turned often, and is dry, if the weather is likely to prove wet, they *cock* the Ore, as they term it, in the same manner as we do Hay, but in much less heaps, and let it rest. Having thus prepared the Ore, and made a circular shelving pit in the sand seven feet diameter, and three feet deep, they line the sides of the pit with stones, that whilst they are stirring the Oreweed neither sand nor  
earth

earth may insinuate itself into the *Kelp*, and debase it: then putting a small bush of *Furze* lighted, into the bottom of the pit, they place carefully and lightly some of the dryest *Ore-weed* on the fire. The fire, weak at first, they nurse with great attention till it gains strength, and then feed it with fresh *Ore*, which is brought to the Master-burner by boys or girls who wait his commands. At this time the smoke of the *Ore-weed* rises, spreads itself with the wind, like a thick heavy Mist, with a most disagreeable scent, and if it be calm weather it hangs in the air for some time after the burning is over, and, I should think, must affect tender Lungs, and weak Stomachs: when a sufficient quantity of the *Ore-weed* is laid on, and the fire very strong, the whole has the appearance of bright burning Embers; they then fall to mixing and stirring it with iron rakes, from one side of the pit to the other, till it begins to run, and an imperfect kind of vitrification ensues, and when all the mass is melted, they let it settle, and it consolidates into a lump in the bottom of the pit, as in a mould, or trough, and when cold it is fit to ship off.

R

There

There is great difference in the quality of the *Kelp*, and more skill in burning it than one would imagine; that which is of closest texture and smallest grain, most free from sand and earth is much to be preferred, and in some Islands they are reckoned to make better *Kelp* than in others, in St. MARTIN's best of all. Having laid some of the best sort in a window in the month of *June*, the weather hazy and moist, I found it to imbibe the moisture of the air plentifully, and wet every part of the window whither soever I moved it, and in a very rainy day and night it yielded more water than usual, the water extremely salt and pungent. By this it appears that *Kelp*, consisting of Sea-salt principally, will waste and suffer, if exposed to rain, and therefore the sooner it is shipped off after burning, the better it must be, and the more in weight.

An industrious man may get five or six pounds during the two months of the *Kelp* season; the year before I was at SCILLY several persons got more, but then they had the good luck to sell it at two pounds three shillings *per* ton, which was the

the greatest price it had to that time been sold at. When it was first made there, they sold it for eighteen shillings, and for three years last past for one pound two shillings and six-pence *per* ton.

The art of making *Kelp* was never known in these Islands till introduced by Mr. *Nance* in the year 1684, as I was informed by his son, then eighty years of age, living in St. MARTIN's who came over from *Cornwall* with his father (who is still remembered in SCILLY with gratitude) for the very purpose of carrying on the *Kelp* Manufacture, and has lived there ever since.

The *Alga Marina* is useful in another respect. If it be taken (I mean the broad-leaved *Alga*) from under water in the Dog-days, and as soon as possible covered up from the Air with Woollen-Cloth, the volatile Salts, which will evaporate when the plant is exposed to the Sun and Air may be preserved, and the leaves will be found covered over with a kind of Sugar, shot into Efflorescencies which may be shook off. This Sacharine Salt is thought to be very medicinal and for coolness,

and subtle gentle penetration to exceed all the preparations of purified *Nitre* \*. The Inhabitants of *Iceland* make this use of the *Alga*, but of this virtue these Islanders know nothing.

SCILLY  
Harbour.  
St. MARY'S. There are four Inlets, called *Sounds*, which lead into St. MARY'S *Harbour*, viz. *Broad-Sound*, *Smith's*, *St. Mary's*, and *Crow-Sound*. This Har-

• Pl. III.  
Nº. 20. bour \* is made by the Islands SAMSON, BREHAR, and TRESCAW, to the North-west, and the opposite Island of St. MARY's, whence it is named. Ships may ride here in water from five to three fathom; there is some difficulty in getting in, but the Anchorage is in a very good bottom, and hardly any wind can blow, but that small Ships of a hundred and fifty ton may easily get out at one of the Sounds, unless it be through *Crow-Sound*, where they cannot pass at low water; but at high water there are from sixteen to twenty-four feet, so that if it blows hard, and Ships chuse to put to Sea, they may get out here also when the Tide serves. The Fort on the *Heugh* commands this Harbour.

• Philosoph. Transact.

There



There are two other Harbours, one, called  
 \* Pl. III. *New-Grynsfey*\*, lies betwixt BREHAR and TRESCAW,  
 N°. 19.  
 & Pl. V. where Ships of three hundred ton may ride se-  
 curely. The other is called *Old-Grynsfey*, and lies  
 \* P. III. between TRESCAW, St. HELEN's, and THEON \*,  
 N°. 22. for smaller Ships. The former is guarded by the  
 Batteries at *Oliver's Castle*, the latter by the *Block-  
 house* on the Eastern side of TRESCAW called *Dover*.  
 Small Coasters, bound to the Northward, have a  
 more convenient outlet from these little Harbours  
 than from St. MARY's.

As all these Harbours have Rocks in abundance  
 without, and some within them, Ships coming in,  
 although they may have been often here before,  
 generally chuse to take a Pilot, especially if the  
 wind blows hard. These Pilots have something  
 singular and daring in their manner of getting on  
 board the Ships as they come in; they go off ten  
 or twelve together, and from their little Boats  
 steering up along side, the Pilot jumps into the  
 Ship; the Boat then goes away to another Ship,  
 drops another Man there, then to a third, and so  
 on, till they have but two Men left in the Boat,  
 which

which then returns, and is rowed to the first Shore they can best get at.

We were in pain for the little Boats in such rough Seas, but as all Ships take a Pilot, this encourages them to venture, (oftentimes for so small a reward as five shillings) and custom makes them so dextrous that few accidents happen.

*The Use &  
Importance of  
SCILLY  
in Time of  
Peace.*

The situation of these Islands is such, as makes them of great advantage to Shipping in general bound to the Coast of *England* from the Southward, but of particular service to all Chanel Traders; for being nine leagues to the West-South-West of the Land's-end, Ships bound either for *St. George's*, or the *English* Chanel<sup>b</sup>, must pass near SCILLY; and if they are taken with a contrary wind (which is very often the case) in passing from one Chanel to another, and if it blows any thing hard, they will always chuse to bear away for SCILLY, as a place from which they can clear the Head Lands of *England* as soon as

<sup>b</sup> *St. George's* Chanel runs up betwixt *England* and *Ireland* bearing North, and the *English* Chanel be-

twixt *England* and *France* due East from these Islands.

the

the wind alters; and 'tis indeed an advantage to them that they have such a resting place, for otherwife they must beat the Sea (as the Sailors exprefs themselves) in dirty weather, to the great damage of their Sails and Rigging, or bear away for *Ireland* or *Milford Haven*, if the wind be strong Easterly; or, on the other hand, be put back to *Falmouth* or *Plymouth*, and sometimes forced upon the Coast of *France*, if the wind blows hard from the North-west.

Now there is such a constant intercourse betwixt the two Channels, that the disadvantages of being put back in the abovementioned manner must frequently happen to the Chanel Traders, if it were not for SCILLY, which Port therefore they always make to, for the sake of waiting a fair wind, but more especially when it blows strong Easterly, for at such a time these Islands are as sure of visits from the Coasting Vessels as if they were bound here to discharge: Of this we had certain proof two days before we came from SCILLY.

*Sunday*

*Sunday, June 7*, in the morning, it blew very hard at East and East-South-East, and as all our Friends at SCILLY had been wishing that we might have the pleasure of seeing their Harbour and *Pool* well fet off with Ships before our return, we were in great expectation, but at our coming home at noon from Morning Service, only two little Sloops appeared. In the afternoon it still blew hard, and it was wondered that no Ships should have come in, but about six of the clock word was brought from the Hills, that seven Sail were in sight bearing away for the Islands. We then walked up into the *Lines*, within a Bow-shot of which the Ships must turn into the Har-

• Plate I. bour through St. MARY's *Sound* \*; in about two  
Fig. i.

• Pl. III. hours there came into the *Pool* \* before the Town  
Nº. 33.

thirty-five Ships, and they all lay so round that a Musket-shot from the *Pier-head* would reach the most distant of them, and many of them ran ashore out of choice upon the soft sandy *Beach*, the rest lay all in a cluster making as pretty a Sea-piece as can be imagined.

Homeward-

Homeward-bound Ships also, especially from *America*, often put in at SCILLY, as the first Land they make generally in their way to the Ports of *England*, people after long voyages being always willing to catch at the first refreshments that offer.

*Their Use  
in Time of  
War.*

In time of War it is of the utmost importance to *England* to have SCILLY in it's possession: if it were in an enemy's hand, the Chancel Trade from *Ireland*, *Liverpool*, and *Bristol* to *London* and the South of *England*, could not subsist. For SCILLY, lying (as has been observed before) at the point of *England*, and looking into both Chancels, no Ship could pass but a Privateer might speak with it from one of these *Sounds*. This the Parliament Ministry, in the latter end of the Civil Wars of *Charles* the First, quickly experienced as soon as Sir *John Granville* had fortified and garrisoned SCILLY. *Whitlock*, p. 464, &c. tells us, that continual complaints were made to the then Managers of affairs at *London*, of the taking of Ships by the Privateers of SCILLY, so that at last they were obliged to send Admiral *Blake* and Sir *George Aske* to dislodge the Cavaliers from a Post which gave

\* Ibid. 465, &c. *Heath* 207.

130 THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE  
them such opportunities of distressing their Trade.  
The *Dutch* also complained of the same Privateers,  
and being then powerful by Sea, sent out a Squa-  
dron under pretence of doing themselves justice :  
but it is thought they had a mind to conquer and  
keep these Islands, and that they imagined no  
time so proper for laying their paw on this prey,  
as whilst the distractions of a Civil War in the  
heart of the Kingdom made the people of *England*  
less sollicitous about what became of their little  
scattered Colonies at a distance. It is also said,  
with great probability, that they would have treated  
with Sir *John Granville*, and had commissioned  
their Admiral to propose to him, that the Islands  
might be delivered up to them upon a proper  
consideration, but that Sir *John* rejected the offer,  
as an attempt upon his honour, and inconsistent  
with his duty to his Country. The *Dutch* schemes  
both of Conquest and Purchase came to nothing,  
but may serve to instruct us, that when a Rival Na-  
tion has a mind to annoy our Trade, and put a curb  
in our mouths, it will take hold of SCILLY, and  
nestle there if it can.

Their

*Wants  
and Incon-  
veniences  
of Scilly.*

Their Wants cannot be many in these Islands, under such an indulgent Lord as the present worthy Proprietor, (especially if he is properly inform'd of them;) but some there are, which, how far they may be in the power of the Lord or Tenant to remedy, or in what manner they may be redress'd, I do not presume to speak positively, as a competent Judge. But many people may see some things amiss, though few people have skill to find out, and power to procure and apply the proper Remedy: You may depend on the number of Defects which I shall mention, as what I have been assured of by those who feel them, but as to the Remedies I hint at, judge for yourself.

*Garrison.* In Time of War, or danger of Invasion, they want more Soldiers than they have at present, to man so extensive a Line as that of *St. Mary's Fort*, (near two miles in circumference) to say nothing of the Batteries of *Old*, and *New Grynsey*, which doubtless on such occasions will require proportionable attention. 'Tis true, as long as our Royal Navy is superior in the *Chanel* (which I hope will always be the case) *SCILLY* is safe, but

if our *Chanel* Squadron was beat, and oblig'd to keep in Harbour, SCILLY taken, and the Fortifications completed, it might do us a great deal of mischief before it would be retaken. If these observations were not obvious, and indeed notorious to people of every Nation that have seen SCILLY, I should not mention them. If the Islanders from twenty to fifty years of age were obliged to exercise often at the Batteries (even in time of Peace as well as War) and train'd to use the Firelock among the Invalids on Holydays in the summer time, it might contribute to their mutual security, without burthening their Lord, or the Government.

*Government.*

Twelve of the principal Inhabitants meet once a month, hear Complaints, and compose some little Disputes, but rather by Compromise than Decision, and this is all the Government they have, without calling in the Military Power, which in heinous, and criminal Cases is done; but common Immoralities<sup>c</sup> escape all reprehension; and when any thing of more than ordinary difficulty occurs, or when any thing is to be done for

<sup>c</sup> Drunkenness, Swearing, Debauchery, Personal Insults, &c.

the



the general good of the little Community, these Twelve Men may not perhaps want Discernment<sup>4</sup>, but as far as I could learn, they want Authority, want Rules and Precedents, want Power to compel the Payment of small Debts, want Penalties and Punishments for the Stubborn and Wicked, a Bridewell for the Idle, and a regular, strict Administration of Justice and Law for all. So that the people are left too much to their own will, (happy Effects of Liberty without Law!) and as the Islands have but the Shadow of Government, the Good feel not the Benefit of it because 'tis but a Shadow, nor the Wicked the Weight of it for the same reason.

*Their Communication with England.*

They want a constant, regular, and even monthly Communication with *England* for many reasons, but chiefly because having only a small spot of Cultivated Land, and many Mouths, they want fresh Victuals often, and at times Corn, especially if Ships after a long Voyage touch here, for then the Meal and fat Cattle of the Islands bring a great Price, and the Islanders are eager

<sup>4</sup> The Commanding Officer, the Chaplain, and the Lord Proprietor's Agent being always of the number.

to

to sell what they design'd for their own Provision, depending upon a Passage to the Main for a fresh Supply for themselves; but their Reckoning is not always just, for if I have been rightly inform'd by the Commanding Officer, they have been seventeen weeks without receiving any Provision whatsoever, or Intelligence from the Main. Such a long Intermission of their Correspondence with *England* must be extremely inconvenient, and in proportion to the Business, and Property which every Man has more or less in and with the Main. You will easily imagine, that it would be more comfortable, as well as more plentiful living here for people of Commerce or Fortune, and might therefore promote their settling here, if they had a small ship of forty ton passing and repassing as the weather would permit, and I am well assured that fifty or sixty pounds a year, added to the honest freight and trade would maintain such a ship.

*The  
Tenure.*

Their Lands are granted to them for the term of twenty-one years only, and the Lord Proprietor repairs all the Houses; which kind of Tenure most certainly does not promote the Improvement

ment of Lands and Houses sufficiently: Whether setting the Lands to them by Lease for three lives, determinable at ninety-nine years, (as the custom is in *Cornwall*) would not encourage the Tenants to cultivate the coarse Grounds, to rebuild their Houses, and at the same time free the Lord from the continual charge of Repairs, an Article subject to so much Fraud, I leave to the determination of others.

*Chaplain.* There is but one Clergyman \* in all the Islands, the Inconveniences of which are obvious: When he is sick all divine Service must cease, till he is recovered; when he dies, they may be many Weeks without Church-service; Children can't be baptis'd, the Lord's Supper administred; the betroth'd can't marry, the Ignorant be instructed, nor the Vicious reprov'd. When he is in Health, he goes to each Off-Island but once in a year; all the rest of the time, they have only such Instruction as the Island-Clerk reads, or endeavours to read to them from Sermons, as I observ'd, not of the best choice.

\* At present a very decent, sensible Gentleman, every way equal to his office.

This

This scanty and precarious situation of Church-Service in these Islands, first mov'd a gentleman of *Shropshire*,<sup>\*</sup> about three years since, to give two hundred and fifty pounds Benefaction, hoping that it might in time, and by the same charitable motives making an equal Impression upon others, become a sufficiency for a Deacon to reside upon TRESCAW; this was his first Plan, but it was afterwards chang'd into an Intention to maintain a Schoolmaster, and doubtless a very good Design, but perhaps not so necessary, for if the Islanders want a proper Schoolmaster it is their own Fault, and because they (or the Managers for them) make a wrong choice. Lord *Godolphin* allows a competent maintenance for such a person, and when there is a Schoolmaster there whose Capacity, Example, and Diligence, are equal to the Trust, I will venture to say there will be so numerous a School, as with Lord *Godolphin's* Gratitude will set the Master above want, and answer all the Purposes of these Islands.

However, as this Donation of Mr. *Hartborne*

<sup>\*</sup> The Rev. Mr. *Rd. Corbet Hartborne*, Rector of *Bresley* near *Bridgnorth*.

is under the best direction,\* whatever alterations or delays it may require to render it effectual, 'tis not to be doubted but it will be either extended in it's full power towards the advancement of Christian Knowledge at present, or be reserv'd for that additional Assistance which a Charity to so many Souls in so secluded a part of *Britain*, may in time reasonably promise itself, so as one day to promote the instruction of every stage of life.

If another Clergyman was settled at TRESAW, he might often attend the Churches of St. MARTIN'S and BREHAR (the Islands are so near) in the afternoon, and the People of these Islands, and SAMSON, might often come to TRESAW to Divine Service. He might also assist the Chaplain of St. MARY'S in case of Sicknefs, and supply his place (where they have such a large congregation) in case of Death.

*Employ-  
ment.*

They want more constant Employment for their Inhabitants; for their Land, their pre-

\* That of the Society at London for promoting Christian Knowledge.

sent *Fishing*, *Kelp*, and *Pilotage* will not sufficiently fill up their time.

Nature has plac'd them in the middle of the Course which the *Pilchards* make round the *British* Islands; they have fine sandy *Coves* in every Island (especially in St. AGNES) where these *Pilchards* offer themselves and might easily be inclos'd. Why they do not engage in a Fishery, which, with all it's Appurtenances of Cellars, Boats, Nets, Cordage, Salt, &c. would manifestly employ such a number of Men, Women, and Children, bring in so much ready Money and Shipping to the Islands, and of itself in a great measure, without any additional Expence, maintain that constant Correspondence with the Main so necessary to the subsistence of these Islanders, is to me utterly unaccountable.

To have done then with my long Letter.

Formerly these Islands were of much greater extent than now they are, and they must have been well peopled, or their Lands would not have

have been every where so inclos'd and carefully divided as we find they were. If they were well peopled they must have had Towns and Villages, and these Towns must have been in their Low-lands, for the Remains in the higher Grounds are not sufficient to account for the Accommodation of great numbers: These Islands therefore are sunk greatly from what they were anciently; their Towns and Low-Lands are gone, and what remains can never arrive at the former pitch of Improvement and Habitaney, yet should they not be neglected; as they are at present, they are of great Importance to the Trade of *England*, both in Peace and War; they have some Wants indeed, but they seem to want nothing either for their Defence, Sustainance, or Riches, but what might easily be had, and soon make them a secure, comfortable, and flourishing Settlement. They cannot perhaps be equal to what they have been heretofore, yet are they greatly superiour to what they have been for many ages past; they have been greatly improv'd in the hands of the worthy family which now possesses them, and they are still capable of great Improvements.

My

My promis'd Letter, you see, is grown into a long Essay, but 'tis too late to make Apologies; the best, however, that I can make to You will be very short, which is this, that though these Islands are so near us, they are very little known, and much less valued than in all reason they ought to be.

I remain,

S I R,

With the greatest Respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BORLASE.











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